Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Aldana Holds Talks With Bessmertnykh in Moscow *[Havana Radio]* 1
Armed Forces Delegation Ends Visit to USSR *[Havana TV]* 1
Prosecutor on Anti-Castro Plot Trial *[Havana Radio]* 1
Rodriguez Says Cuba Seeking 'Cohesion' *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 1
Matanzas PCC Plenum Reviews Provincial Plans *[Havana TV]* 2
Sixto Batista Tours Las Tunas Province *[Havana TV]* 2
Angolan Education Minister Attends Graduation *[Havana TV]* 3

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Common Market Council Extends Meetings *[CANA]* 3
Recommends Adopting EAI Draft *[CANA]* 3

Dominica

Budget Passage Assured Despite Walkout *[CANA]* 4

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Urges Talks With Haiti on Deportations *[Santa Domingo Radio]* 4
State Radio Explains Repatriation of Haitians *[Santo Domingo Radio/TV]* 4
No Date for San Cristobal Haitian Repatriation *[Santo Domingo Radio]* 5

Grenada

Parliamentarians Walk Out Over Hasty Legislation *[CANA]* 5

Haiti

Aristide: 'Powerful Countries' in Coup Plot *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Dominican Crisis Reviewed; Senate Approves Envoy *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Preval Promises Improved Prison Conditions *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6

MEXICO

President on Foreign Investments, Cooperation *[Vienna WOCHENPRESSE 27 Jun]* 7
• Pronasol Activities Nationwide Examined 8
• PAN Survey of Activities *[LA NACION 20 May]* 8
• Defects in Chalco Project *[EXCELSIOR 6 Jun]* 12
• Chimalhuacan Corruption *[EXCELSIOR 6 Jun]* 13
• Funds for Church Cited *[PROCESO 3 Jun]* 13
• Favoritism in Oaxaca Town *[NOTICIAS 18 May]* 17

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Foreign Minister on FMLN Role in Politics *[San Salvador TV]* 18

Guatemala

University Strike Leader Gunned Down in Capital *[ACAN]* 18

Honduras

Armed Forces Spokesman on Rebels, Weapons *[EL HERALDO 26 Jun]* 18

Nicaragua

Recontras Said Attacking Quilali Police Garrison *[Managua Radio]* 19
Chamorro Speech on First 'Anniversary of Peace' *[Managua Radio]* 19
FSLN, RN Agree To Promote Disarmament *[BARRICADA 26 Jun]* 20

Panama

Foreign Ministry Denies U.S. in Charge of Fort *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 27 Jun]* 21
U.S. Command Said To Arrest Labor Leader *[CRITICA LIBRE 27 Jun]* 21
Legislator: Drug Actions Not Stopped by MLAT *[EL SIGLO 25 Jun]* 22
Endara Denies Democratization Process 'in Danger' *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 26 Jun]* 22
Arias Calderon Rejects Plebiscite for Government *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 26 Jun]* 22
Government Fares Poorly in Public Opinion Poll *[LA PRENSA 26 Jun]* 23

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Foreign Minister Appeals for U.S. 'Benevolence' *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 24
Judge Orders Former President Alfonsin Arrested *[Buenos Aires TV]* 24
Plans To Privatize CNEA Sector Proposed *[CLARIN 25 Jun]* 24

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Receives Peruvian Army Commander *[La Paz TV]* 25

Brazil

Congress Rejects Measure To Raise Salaries 25
Public Servants 'Severely' Affected *[Brasilia Radio]* 25
Passarinho Submits Resignation *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 25
Collor Rejects Salary Payback *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 26
Rezek Minimizes Maritime Incident With Uruguay *[Madrid EFE]* 26
Malaysia's Mahathir Seeking Trade Opportunities *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 26

Chile

Court Requests FPMR Member's Extradition *[Santiago TV]* 26
Krauss Receives Former Nicaraguan Minister *[Santiago Radio]* 27

Colombia

Senate Vice President Rejects Drug Accusations *[Madrid EFE]* 27
Surrender of Extraditables Resumes at Envigado *[Bogota TV]* 27
Government 'Finally' Accepts Envoy's Resignation *[Bogota TV]* 27
Party Leader Wolff Reports on Election Strategy *[Bogota TV]* 28

Peru

Bomb Hurts Guard at Former Shining Path Office *[Lima TV]* 28
Army Kills 'Approximately 74' MRTA Members *[Lima TV]* 28
Prime Minister on Drug Trafficker, Forged Papers *[Lima TV]* 28
Minister Comments on Sentencing of Policemen *[Lima TV]* 29

Uruguay

Government Protests Brazilian Ships Incident *[Montevideo Radio]* 29
New Measures Adopted To Stop Money Laundering *[EL PAIS 18 Jun]* 29

Venezuela

Colombian Officials Accused of Drug Trafficking *[Madrid EFE]* 29

Cuba

Aldana Holds Talks With Bessmertnykh in Moscow

FL2706155891 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1355 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, have agreed on the need to work toward reducing tensions surrounding Cuba. During a meeting in Moscow, both leaders pointed out the importance of intensifying bilateral and international efforts toward this goal within the framework of Cuba's security, sovereignty, and right to self-determination. Both leaders agreed that the healing process requires that confrontation be avoided in relations between Cuba and the United States. They also commented that normalization of relations should be based on equality, mutual respect, and nonintervention in domestic affairs.

Aldana arrived in Moscow last Tuesday at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

Armed Forces Delegation Ends Visit to USSR

FL2706192591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1356 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] A Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] delegation, headed by Colonel Alfonso Borges, Central Political Directorate chief, concluded its visit to the USSR today. The FAR delegation, which arrived in the USSR on 19 June, met with Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov. The Cuban delegation also held talks with their hosts at the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Armed Forces, and toured several military schools. At the (Chakosbirkov) Higher Studies Academy, they held a ceremony in which Cuban military honors were awarded to that institution for their support in the preparation of materials for the FAR.

Prosecutor on Anti-Castro Plot Trial

PA2706144891 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0110 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Report by Arnaldo Hernandez Romeu]

[Text] On 25 June, the provincial court of Havana concluded all proceedings, except the sentencing of neurologists Julio Bientz and Julian Arana, who are accused of participating in terrorist activities.

We visited the offices of Dr. Jose Toledo Santander, who is the prosecutor in the trial.

[Begin recording] [Hernandez] Dr. Toledo, why are you asking for 10- and 18-year sentences for the defendants?

[Toledo] We have to keep in mind the extent to which the actions were implemented. Since the investigation began, both doctors have admitted their guilt and confirmed it at the court hearings. They admitted in detail to a conspiracy in the search for explosives, which were to be placed at the three main entrances of the Neurosurgery and Neurology Institute in Havana and blown up during a previously announced visit of the Cuban chief of state. Subsequently, in view of their inability to obtain the explosive devices, they began collecting certain weapons such as pistols, rifles and some types of personal mines, and other weapons. Bientz obtained these weapons during meetings with other fellow workers who, because of the nature of their jobs, knew about these types of weapons and knew the details regarding the personal security of the chief of state.

I said at the beginning that we had to bear in mind the extent to which the actions were implemented. According to the law, the actions were considered preparatory actions. We have the conspiracy phase and the phase in which weapons and explosives were being collected. As for the participation of each individual defendant, Bientz and Arana were at the center of the conspiracy. They both admit to having participated in the actions. Some others cooperated in the search for the weapons, but the center and the mastermind of the conspiracy was Bientz and that is why the punishment must fit the crime. We must bear in mind two fundamental aspects: First, the extent to which the actions were implemented and second, their effective participation. In addition, we considered their conduct records which, before these events, had not adversely affected them, because they were very good.

[Hernandez] In all trials, there are two opposing forces. One is represented by the prosecutor, in this case, you, and the other is represented by the defense lawyers. What is your opinion of the work done by the defense lawyers?

[Toledo] I believe their work has been positive, praiseworthy, and professional. They have our respect and we have theirs. I believe that the three lawyers who worked on this case, especially Dr. Mora and Dr. Aquino, who were in charge of the defense of Bientz and Arana, did a magnificent job of explaining, assessing, and analyzing the actions of their defendants. Their legal and technical explanations were also correct. They utilized all of the guarantees and rights under our laws. The lawyers used every type of defense possible. Both defendants recognized this during the court hearings. They were given every chance, and they deserve this. The defendants had every opportunity under our laws. They had the right to appoint a defense lawyer. The defendants had every opportunity to meet with their defense lawyers and the defense lawyers were always permitted to suggest and present evidence. The presentation of much of the evidence at the court hearings was suggested by the defense lawyers themselves. The evidence was accepted and reviewed during the court hearings.

[Hernandez] We thank Dr. Jose Luis Toledo Santander, prosecutor of the Havana provincial court. [end recording]

Rodriguez Says Cuba Seeking 'Cohesion'

PA2806044591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0259 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Report by Martha Trejo]

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said here today that

the Ibero-American Summit should come up with a declaration to establish the bases for the development of Latin America in favor of a commercial and economic consensus.

In an interview with NOTIMEX, the Cuban official said that although it is true that there are differences in methods of ruling, "this is the time to reconcile positions and join in a united effort."

Cuba, he said, is not interested in discussing with other presidents at the Guadalajara summit the different criteria in their methods of ruling. He said, however, that Cuba is interested in the various mechanisms so that the isolated integration processes that are taking place can be unified in a single common process.

Regarding the possiblity that some country may try to issue statements that represent a diplomatic and political blow against Cuba—as was the case at the OAS General Assembly held in Chile—he warned that "Cuba will answer, blow by blow. It is prepared to do so."

Rodriguez added that "we believe that this is not the time nor the place to do this. Rather, this is the time to coordinate positions and the time for unity, consensus, and Latin American cohesion."

During a brief stay in this city en route to China, the Cuban vice president emphasized that Cuba is prepared to receive foreign investments and that the fact the country is socialist does not in any way hinder economic relations with other nations.

The vice president emphasized that the crisis Cuba is undergoing at present is similar to the one being confronted by other countries of Latin America, but in the case of Cuba, "this has been maginified."

He insisted that "there is a campaign to portray an image of poverty and backwardness. However, when visitors arrive, they look for it but cannot see it because this is not the case." He said that in Cuba "there is no poverty; we have no street children, and 95 percent of the children go to school. We have the best record in the underdeveloped world in education."

The vice president said that Cuba's economic conditions are different from the rest of Latin America because "we have achieved equality." "We do not have the gap in the distribution of wealth that is characteristic of the region, where 10 percent of the population gets more than 66 percent of the GNP [gross national product]," he noted.

He stated that Cuba's stance regarding democracy has been very clear, "therefore, we have always been willing to take advantage of international and national experiences of the past years."

"We support peace. Peaceful coexistence constitutes a knot in international relations. This is a pluralist world where socialism and capitalism must coexist," he noted.

President Fidel Castro "represents a genuine Latin American voice arising from the heart of our people and reaching out toward the people, the peoples of Latin America, with a message of peace and cooperation," he stressed.

Rodriguez said that the Cuban president will attend the Guadalajara summit—to be held on 18 and 19 July—with that attitude and spirit.

Matanzas PCC Plenum Reviews Provincial Plans

FL2706130991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The plenum of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] provincial committee has convened in Matanzas one month prior to the 26 July national ceremony marking the 38th anniversary of the Moncada Barracks attack.

[Begin reporter Nelson Barrera recording] Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, first secretary of the provincial committee and alternate Politburo member, headed the meeting that urged the people of Matanzas to push forward and add new labor accomplishments to the history of the region. The main tasks listed were the planting and care of sugar cane, citrus, and other crops, the construction of Voison grazing facilities, the completion of major projects such as the super tanker port, several hotel facilities in Varadero, the highway between Varadero and Matanzas, the liquid detergent factory, two fish farms, and other public service projects.

The main subject discussed during the meeting was the analysis of the sugar harvest results and future projections. By month's end, the people of Matanzas will have cleared the weeds from all the fields despite the abundant spring rains.

Currently, the main tasks are to repair the sugar mills and their equipment, to intelligently face shortages, and to recycle everything possible. The goals approved this evening at the Jose Mig Coma Theater also prioritized efforts to clean up all cities and towns, and all cultural, health, and defense of the revolution tasks. The plenum of the provincial PCC committee also studied how to deal with delinquency and antisocial behavior, which currently are top strategic priorities for all revolutionaries.

Our duty is to turn this 30-day period into an example of dedication, efficiency, and enthusiasm. [end recording]

Sixto Batista Tours Las Tunas Province

FL2706153991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1233 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The CDR National Secretariat, headed by Division General Sixto Batista Santana, CDR national coordinator, has toured Las Tunas Province. During the visit, Sixto Bastista, who is also an alternate member of the Politburo, talked with combatants, workers, and students and experienced the province's willingness to push forward.

[Begin Sixto Batista Santana recording] These days, the main CDR task is the same as it always has been—to defend the revolution. What impresses me the most is the spirit of the people of Las Tunas, their combativeness, their understanding of the problems of the revolution, their willingness to make enormous sacrifices to defend socialism under any circumstance. We perceived this at meetings with regional leaders We saw the spirit of the Las Tunas people.

We also saw a commitment to solving people's problems. I think that right now, other provinces must come and learn from the work that is being done in Las Tunas. It is a pleasure to visit this province and see how everyone is committed to finding solutions to these problems. I do not need to go into detail, everyone is aware of their efforts. [end recording]

Angolan Education Minister Attends Graduation

FL2706195491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. Antonio Valentim da Silva Neto, education minister for the Republic of Angola, who is on an official visit to the country, has been received at the Ministry of Education's headquarters by Education Minister Luis Gomez. During their meeting, in which the rest of the Angolan delegation participated, the Cuban minister gave a detailed orientation on Cuba's educational system, which teaches more than 2 and ½ million students.

Luis Gomez referred to the department's current priorities, emphasizing efforts to improve basic educational materials at the high school level, the conversion of preuniversity institutes into polytechnical and agricultural institutes, and policies aimed at varying preuniversity courses in favor of polytechnical courses.

The Angolan education minister arrived in Cuba on 25 June with plans to attend graduation services scheduled for 30 June at the Island of Youth branch of the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes School. This is the first group of foreign students to graduate from the school.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Common Market Council Extends Meetings

FL2706172491 Bridgetown CANA in English 1631 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, June 27, CANA—The 37th meeting of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) Common Market Council went into an unscheduled third day on Thursday, with delegates indicating this was due mainly to the length of the agenda.

"We have dealt with most of the contentious issues but, as you know, it's a long agenda," one official told CANA. Among the agenda items dealt with by the Council, the second highest descision-making body within Caricom, were the problems surrounding the Common External Tariff (CET). The tariff is on non-Caricom imports. Some countries have been pressing for it to be waived on a number of imports.

Conference sources told CANA that most of the items for which suspension of the CET were being sought had been granted. Seven Caricom countries have so far introduced the CET. A number submitted separate lists to the Council seeking suspension of the tariff on various items. Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, and Dominica presented their lists to the meeting.

"Not all the items on the lists were approved," one source said. The three day prepartaory meeting for the 12th Caricom summit was due to start later on Thursday.

Recommends Adopting EAI Draft

FL2806011091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2004 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, June 27, CANA—The Caribbean Community (Caricom) Common Market Council has recommended that regional governments accept a draft framework agreement for seeking benefits under the U.S. Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI). American and Caribbean officials have proposed a joint council on trade and investment to negotiate a trade liberalisation pact between the Caribbean Community and the U.S. under the EAI.

Trinidad and Tobago's minister of foreign trade, Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo told the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) on Thursday "that the draft agreement...is for all intents and purposes an acceptable one in principle."

"They (the Council) will be advising heads (of government) or recommending to heads that we consider entering into that agreement with the intention that much more fundamental issues as identified at council could be addressed subsequently to take care of our Caricom interest as a whole," he said. Caricom leaders will meet here from July 1-4, and the EAI will be among a number of issues which they will address.

The draft framework agreement which followed meetings between both American and Caribbean officials June 11 and 12 documents an eight-point agenda for immediate action once the talks begin.

Conference sources told CANA that during the discussion on the EAI, member countries felt that the region should not compromise any existing benefits which the Caribbean currently enjoys from the United States. Basdeo told CANA: "It was the feeling that we enjoy preferences under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) which are likely to be lost if we pursued a framework agreement without specifying that we would not like to have these (advantages) lost. "They insisted that it should represent part of the preamble of the draft agreement," he said.

A joint council on trade and investment is expected to give priority to identifying "measures to improve operations of the CBI." Basdeo said that the position now, "is that in principle we agree with the draft agreement

because we have nothing to lose, and once we approve the draft as is, with slight modifications...Then we could raise some of the more substantial issues...

"In sum, what emerged were views that were quite valid and legitimate, coming from various sections of Caricom, but at no time was there disagreement with respect to entering into an agreement with the United States, insofar as the EAI is concerned." The draft agreement would not prejudice pre-existing obligations of both sides under domestic law, the general agreement on tariffs and trade, and other arrangments.

Basdeo said that the EAI could be a platform from which the Bahamas, which is seeking benefits from the EAI as a member of Caricom, could join the Caribbean common market.

"What that might do if it does take place is expedite the process of accommodating the Bahamas in Caricom. So it might be a plus rather than a minus. It might be advantageous for the regional economic movement in the long run," he said.

Dominica

Budget Passage Assured Despite Walkout

FL2806021191 Bridgetown CANA in English 2108 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, June 27, CANA—The Eugenia Charles government affirmed Thursday that it would use its slender parliamentary majority to ensure passage of the 1991-92 budget, despite an opposition walkout Wednesday.

Opposition leader Edison James led the walkout by 10 United Workers Party [UWP] and Dominica Labour Party [DLP] parliamentarians after they made their contributions to the budget debate which began Tuesday morning.

James accused the 11-member Charles administration of being undemocratic in refusing to allow opposition members more time to study the budget. He also wants the time allowed for their contribution to the debate increased from the current one hour for the leader, and 20 minutes for opposition members of Parliament. James said the opposition was not allowed the opportunity to adequately research the proposals "and to make the kind of contribution that is desirable."

"The budget meeting is the most important meeting in the parliamentary calendar, and to short-change the opposition would be to short-change the country and undermine the whole process of parliamentary democracy," James told the Caribbean News Agency.

External Affairs Minister Brian Alleyne said that the opposition walkout is "a little unfortunate for the democratic process," but the government is not uncomfortable with the action taken by James' UWP and the DLP of Michael Douglas.

"The government is fully upholding the democratic process, and the opposition has the full opportunity to be there, and they have decided not to take advantage of that opportunity. So they're depriving themselves of what is legitimately their right," Alleyne told CANA.

"They're certainly not affecting the government in any way—on the contrary, what they're doing is weakening their position," he said.

The debate was expected to be wrapped up on Thursday.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Urges Talks With Haiti on Deportations

FL2706184191 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1740 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has called for urgent talks with Haitian authorities, because relations between the two nations are at a standstill. Balaguer made this call while responding to reporters' questions on the Haitian deportation issue. Balaguer said that Haitian authorities contacted international organizations to lodge their complaints instead of speaking to the Dominican Government. The Haitian Government refused to speak with Dominican authorities.

Balaguer insisted on the need for holding talks between the two nations. Balaguer also spoke about relations with the International Monetary Fund and said that the governor of the Central Bank is in Washington and will not be fully informed on the subject until his return later today. On the subject of Haiti, Balaguer said the following:

[Begin Balaguer recording] From the start, the Haitian authorities refused to talk. They sent a message through the Dominican Embassy in Port-au-Prince in which they stated that the measures taken by the Dominican authorities were inadmissible. That closed the door for talks. If they start by rejecting the right of the Dominican people, the right of the Dominican Government to control foreign immigration, they are rejecting our sovereignty. That is what is really inadmissible. That is why relations between both countries are at a impasse. [end recording]

State Radio Explains Repatriation of Haitians

FL2706131491 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1209 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Many Dominicans have been displaced by Haitians in the workplace, despite the legal prohibitions and the contents of a decree that authorizes the repatriation of those who are here illegally. Haitian nationals that live in the Dominican Republic cutting cane also get involved in other forms of work.

The Dominican Republic has been the object of criticism by groups that are interested in damaging its image in the world community. The illegal Haitians work in construction, sell fruit, paint, and gather fruit on farms. The

treatment that is given to the Haitian national is the same that is given to Dominicans working in the same production sectors.

Immigration authorities are strictly applying the decree of President Joaquin Balaguer that orders the repatriation of Haitians younger than 16 years of age and older than 60 years of age who are in the country illegally.

No Date for San Cristobal Haitian Repatriation

FL2706123191 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1129 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] There is no date set for the repatriation of some 150 Haitians that are now being housed at the Southern Center for Agricultural Development at San Cristobal. A large number of the Haitians have started to appear desperate.

Neither the Labor Secretariat nor the Immigrations Directorate have established a date for the repatriation of these illegal Haitians. They are continuing, however, to gather Haitians who show interest in being repatriated at that location.

Grenada

Parliamentarians Walk Out Over Hasty Legislation

FL2806003691 Bridgetown CANA in English 1653 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, June 27, CANA—Opposition members of the Grenada Parliament walked out in protest Wednesday over what they said was the government's attempt to rush legislation through the House of Representatives.

"We will not be part of this attempt to have a bill rushed through in one sitting. We need time to get legal advice on some matters," opposition leader Winnifred Strachan said.

Two opposition members, Malcolm Antoine and Dr. Keith Mitchell, followed Strachan out of the sitting. But one member, Winston Frederick, remained in his seat while former Prime Minister Ben Jones, who was absent, told CANA he would have joined the trio, if he was present, on the principle involved. The House was debating Grenada's return to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) court system, among other matters. All opposition members of the Grenada House of Representatives are independent. The leader of government business in the House, Attorney General Dr. Francis Alexis, chided the opposition for not being involved in the sitting and said their claim was unfair.

"If they (opposition) want bills to be given first reading on one day and second reading on another day, how then do they explain not staying to take part in the debate on this Constitution judicature restoration act which was read the first time since the 8th of May," he said.

Haiti

Aristide: 'Powerful Countries' in Coup Plot

FL2706230191 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The criminal court session begins on 15 July in Port-au-Prince, Grande-Riviere du Nord, and Fort-Liberte in the northern part of Haiti. It begins on 1 July in Aquin.

President Aristide, in an interview with the newspaper, L'UNION, yesterday suggested 15 July as the trial date for Roger Lafontant and his accomplices. Following is a report by Clarens. [passage omitted]

[Begin Clarens recording] The head of state is clear on the question of the prosecution of Lafontant. He proposes 15 July as the trial date, and calls on all Haitians to ensure that the judicial process is carried out without crooked dealings. If crooked dealings prevent Lafontant's sentencing, Aristide warns, the events of 7 January will be repeated, and the next time, with even more energy.

He revealed to the director of L'UNION that in Lafontant's bid for power, a game was being played by the powerful countries. There are big masters and small masters, said the president of the Republic, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in his interview with Pierre Clitandre, general director of the newspaper L'UNION. [end recording]

Dominican Crisis Reviewed; Senate Approves Envoy

FL2706220591 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Excerpt] The Haitian people are beginning to become aware of the serious problem between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as several press releases have been published on the subject this week. The Senate has ratified the executive's choice of Guy Alexandre as new ambassador to the Dominican Republic. It became public knowledge this week that Haiti has not had representation in the Dominican Republic because all of Haiti's foreign ambassadors had been recalled by former governments. Under the current circumstances, this problem needed to be resolved quickly.

According to the Dominican ambassador in Port-au-Prince, who had been invited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it is possible to negotiate an end to the crisis between the two countries. In the absence of Foreign Affairs Minister Marie-Denise Fabien Jean-Louis who is now in Jamaica, the crisis committee, especially established to resolve this problem, is continuing to work on it.

The information minister, acting as foreign affairs minister, outlined to the press yesterday the events leading up to the crisis between the two countries. She announced that the foreign affairs minister will present

further information to the public when she returns from Jamaica. Let us listen to Information Minister Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue.

[Begin Lassegue recording] June 1991 [as heard]: The Dominican president announces that he will repatriate all Haitian children under 16 years of age, and all adults over 60. He advises the Haitian foreign affairs minister of this decision, and asks the acting Haitian charge d'affaires in the Dominican Republic to gather all information on this matter for the Dominican officials.

14 June: A decree from President Balaguer, No. 234-91, orders the repatriation of all Haitians living in the Dominican Republic.

17 June: The Dominican Embassy in Port-au-Prince issues a note to the Haitian Chancellery announcing that 30 or more adolescents will be repatriated on 18 June. The Foreign Affairs Ministry takes all possible measures to meet the children at the border in Malpasse and return them to their parents.

19 June: The Foreign Affairs Ministry sends a note to the Dominican Embassy in Port-au-Prince denouncing the arbitrary manner in which this deportation was carried out. The Foreign Affairs Ministry takes this opportunity to renew the Haitian Government's commitment to improving relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

It is to be recalled that Haitian and Dominican foreign affairs ministers met at the beginning of June in Chile. The Dominican minister invited Haitian Minister Jean-Louis to the Dominican Republic at a time convenient to her. It is while she is preparing for this trip on 21 June that Minister Jean-Louis hears that the Dominican Republic has begun to deport Haitian children. Obviously, her trip is canceled.

It is learned that President Balaguer has categorically rejected Mrs. Jean-Louis' letter of appeal. The same day, in a friendly message to the Dominican people, Haitian President Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide expresses Haiti's willingness to initiate dialogue.

22 June: 108 deported Haitians arrive from the Dominican Republic. We note that many of the deportees are over 16 years of age or under 60. This does not correspond with the criteria specified in President Balaguer's published decree.

27 June: Haiti's acting foreign affairs minister invites Dominican Ambassador Jose del Carmen Acosta to the Foreign Affairs Ministry to learn of his government's official position on the repatriation issue. Our latest information is that on 27 June, another 100 Haitians will be deported from the Dominican Republic.

After reviewing these events, it is important to recall that Minister Jean-Louis' 19 June communication emphasized the Haitian Government's determination to protect all compatriots and to prevent the trampling of their fundamental rights, in accordance with all international conventions and the country's laws. Come what may, the Haitian Government intends to tackle all matters concerning relations between Haitians and Dominicans that can create divisions between the two countries.

In conclusion, it is very clear that the Haitian Government will protect its nationals regardless of their situation. It will carry out all necessary actions through diplomatic channels. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Preval Promises Improved Prison Conditions

FL2706132991 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] At a news conference on 25 June, Prime Minister Rene Preval promised an improvement in the living conditions of prisoners at the National Penitentiary.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] During a meeting on 25 June between members of the press and the prisoners, the country's head of government, agronomist Rene Preval, promised to improve the prisoners' living conditions at the National Penitentiary. The prime minister said that thanks to the firm dialogue he initiated with the prisoners, a solution had been found to the situation that sparked the prisoners' uprising last week. [passage omitted]

During this meeting, the prime minister stated that people who owe the state, especially people who owe the National Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank, must pay the state. The smugglers must stop smuggling. Otherwise, the law will send them to jail. The prime minister added that he will not tolerate a group of people who enjoy themselves with the state's money in their pockets while other people who have nothing to do are pressuring the government by asking for jobs. [passage omitted]

For their part, the prisoners spoke of several problems they are facing in the prison. According to them, the National Penitentiary is a hell because it is too small to accommodate all the prisoners. [passage omitted] The prisoners said the sanitary conditions are not good and they cannot receive medical attention. [passage omitted] [end recording]

President on Foreign Investments, Cooperation

AU2806090891 Vienna WOCHENPRESSE in German 27 Jun 91 p 40

[Interview with President Carlos Salinas by Konrad Handschuch and Christian Deysson; place and date not given: "America Will Eat More Tacos"]

[Text] [WOCHENPRESSE] Mr. President, next week in Bonn you want to persuade new investors to come to your country. What do you expect in particular from the tour to the Rhine?

[Salinas] I hope that we will be able to sign some agreements for projects. This refers to the subcontractor industries for car production, chemistry, and perhaps also pharmaceuticals. Here it has been shown that the prospects for a common market with the United States and Canada clearly improve Mexico's chances for getting investments. The German companies see the advantage of ensuring themselves access to the biggest common market in the world through their presence in Mexico.

[WOCHENPRESSE] The U.S. trade unions are fearing for jobs because of rising foreign investments in Mexico. Is this concern justified?

[Salinas] I do not think so. I rather believe that the planned free trade agreement with the United States and Canada will strengthen all three national economies. One country will not lose what the other country gains. The U.S. companies are facing strong competition from European and Japanese companies, and they can win this competition only if this big North American market comes into existence and they use all its advantages.

[WOCHENPRESSE] Why should a non-American company invest in Chicago or Detroit in the future, since labor in Mexico is far cheaper?

[Salinas] Of course, we would be happy if investors came directly to Mexico. There is no question. But I say once again: Through the free trade agreement the chances for investors will improve in the entire region, and thus, also in the United States and in Canada.

[WOCHENPRESSE] The example of Volkswagen shows what will happen in the future. Volkswagen closed the factory in the United States, intensified its presence in Mexico, and is now coming back to the U.S. market with more favorable production costs.

[Salinas] The decisive thing is that Volkswagen did not move to just any other place, but to Mexico. Of course, the prospects of a common market played a big role, and we benefited from it. But the United States also has a free trade agreement with Caribbean countries, where wages are even lower. Nevertheless, hardly any investors went to the Caribbean. The issue is not only wage costs but also technological preconditions, which facilitate links between capital and work.

[WOCHENPRESSE] What does the free trade agreement mean for the poorer and less developed countries in Central and South America?

[Salinas] If the trade area closed its borders toward the outside, this would have dramatic consequences for these countries. However, we will be open to the rest of the world. This is another step in the direction in which the GATT negotiations must also go. We are very much in favor of a successful conclusion of the GATT negotiations in the Uruguay round, because we are of the firm opinion that all countries involved will benefit from that.

[WOCHENPRESSE] Foreign companies that need subcontractor parts from Europe are afraid that these subcontractor deliveries will be made more difficult by customs duties in the future.

[Salinas] Such discrimination will not take place. The principle of the country of origin will be valid. Thus, obtaining a corresponding certificate of origin depends on the amount of value increase that is added in a country of the free trade zone.

[WOCHENPRESSE] The Americans are thinking of a local share of 50 percent. Do you agree?

[Salinas] I leave this to my heads of negotiations.

[WOCHENPRESSE] What do the common American market and the single European market have in common?

[Salinas] Regarding the free exchange of goods and services, there will be a great similarity. EC, however, also means a common currency, a unified passport, a common parliament, and a common policy in many areas. All this will not exist in our area. This would contradict our cultural and historical tradition.

[WOCHENPRESSE] The EC is also for a free exchange of labor.

[Salinas] This is a hot iron here. In these negotiations we will not agree on a free exchange of labor. However, now many Mexicans are already emigrating: Almost 10 million live in the United States. However, sooner or later we will have to discuss this topic too—the sooner the better.

[WOCHENPRESSE] Do you not overlook the dangers that such a common market might have—in particular for the identity of the weaker countries?

[Salinas] We would lose our identity if we did not have the capacity to improve our people's standard of living. We are based on a 3,000-year-old culture. This strengthens our cultural independence and it is our most valuable asset in this process. Our history, linked with the prospect of clearly raising the quality of life and the offer of jobs, will make us keep our sovereignty even if we cooperate more closely with the United States in economic terms.

[WOCHENPRESSE] The Mexicans will not eat cheeseburgers instead of tacos in the future?

[Salinas] I am sure that more Americans will eat tacos.

* Pronasol Activities Nationwide Examined

* PAN Survey of Activities

91CA0162A Mexico City LA NACION in Spanish 20 May 91 pp 2-9

[Article by Georgina Tristan, Victoria Jacome, and Miguel Perez]

[Text] Despite the fact that on countless occasions, both Mr. Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Carlos Rojas Gutierrez, coordinator of the National Solidarity Program (Pronasol), have insisted that this program is meeting the population's urgent needs and was not created for electoral purposes, the facts suggest otherwise.

The most recent example is the propaganda that the Puebla chapter of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) is producing with the Solidarity emblem (on our cover), with the PRI logo to one side.

In his inaugural speech on 1 December 1988, Salinas de Gortari proposed to the nation "three new national accords" to achieve modernization and change through institutional, legal, and peaceful channels. The third one had to do with "the productive improvement of the people's well-being."

On that occasion, he announced it in the following manner: "I will implement the National Social Solidarity Program, with effective action in the rural regions and in the urban areas where the standard of living is lowest. In addition, emphasis will be placed on the Indian groups, who demand respect, our maximum support, and fair treatment."

Inspired at that time by "the sentiments of the nation, of Morelos," the chief executive established the Pronasol, which was allocated 900 billion pesos for 1989 (approved by the Congress of the Union). Nevertheless, Carlos Rojas contended that by the end of that fiscal year, they had declared "a budget of 4.1 trillion pesos."

The budget, approved by the Chamber of Deputies, increased by 2 trillion pesos in 1990, under the heading of "Branch XXVI: Solidarity and Regional Development." Moreover, that year the money actually used nearly "doubled."

By 1991, the budget intended for "the battle against poverty" rose to more than 5 trillion pesos. In addition, officials set up "a program designed to ensure public accountability for all actions that are carried out. For this purpose, the solidarity committees are being consolidated and empowered to report any breaches of Solidarity's promises."

Nonpartisan, They Say

Although it is a government instrument that was "originally positive," there is evidence that Pronasol is being used for political-electoral purposes, and that it will contribute to the recovery of the 1988 losses in this federal election year.

Public officials are making statements to the contrary, however. For example, the coordinator of the Pronasol, Rojas Gutierrez, in an interview granted to the newspaper EL DIA in August 1990, stated: "What I have repeatedly pointed out is that the program should not be partisan in nature.

"There is no partisan element in the Solidarity Program. We do not work with the parties; we work with organizations. We have been able to support projects of the Independent Central Organization of Agricultural Workers and Peasants (CIOAC), the National Coordinating Committee of the Ayala Plan, the National Peasant Confederation (CNC), the General Union of Workers and Peasants of Mexico (UGOCM), and other organizations that do not necessarily belong to the PRI."

Two months later, in Queretaro, Rojas Gutierrez denied that the work of the Pronasol is being carried out as a function of political support for the party in power. "Guidelines and goals set forth by President Salinas are being pursued."

The governor of the state of Nayarit, Celso Delgado Ramirez, indicated in July of last year that "President Salinas's generous inspiration places the program beyond any short-sighted notion that might arise from political-ideological interests or conflicts."

Genovevo Figueroa Zamudio, governor of the state of Michoacan, said in July 1990 that the Pronasol "has no electoral goals, nor is it a simple palliative for the major problems we Mexicans face."

Complaints

Statements like this come and go. But there are also countless complaints by public agencies, as well as political parties, that the Pronasol is being used by the ruling party to win votes in the upcoming federal elections (18 August).

For example, the Employers Confederation of the Mexican Republic (Coparmex) has pointed out that "the Mexican Government should prevent the Pronasol from succumbing to populist methods or becoming politicized, or else we would go from economic paternalism, which has caused us so much harm, to social paternalism.

"It is disturbing that solidarity, which is a virtue, a universal value, could be politicized or used opportunistically by a group for populist purposes, just as the political-labor movements of the left did in another era." Another example is the public denunciation issued by Alderman Felipe de Jesus Cantu Rodriguez of the city of Monterrey, who belongs to the National Action Party (PAN). He argued that the National Solidarity Program is being used in the city to promote the PRI by painting the walls of working-class *colonias* [urban communities].

"At the Municipal Sports Stadium there," he said, "on Avenida Camino Real in the Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants (CROC) *colonia*, there is a wall with 'Solidarity' painted on it, and on the left is the emblem of the PRI and on the right that of Pronasol.

"The work of a political party must be completely divorced from the work of the government, because the government is the one that is creating the benefit for society, and the ruling party is being given the credit."

Canto Rodriguez, also a municipal leader of the PAN in the city of Monterrey, challenged those who assert that the Pronasol is a nonpartisan program: "They are calling into question not only the word of Mr. Salinas de Gortari and that of Socrates Rizzo Garcia, former mayor and now PRI candidate for governor, but also the entire political system. They maintain that the system has no reponsibility for the distortion of the Pronasol, which has an ostensibly noble objective.

"I believe that the least the city government can do is remove those signs, which reflect a bias toward the official party. This kind of attitude is very brazen," he concluded.

In July of last year, the national leadership of PAN denounced the use of Pronasol funds for PRI campaigns. "The government has diverted the majority of Pronasol funds toward the financing of political campaigns of the ruling party," contended Don Luis H. Alvarez, national president of the PAN.

On the 9th of this month, at a press conference, Deputies Abel Vicencio Tovar and Luisa Maria Calderon announced that the PAN has reason to believe that "one-fifth of the Pronasol funds come from the Section 1148 charge that the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) collects on our electricity bills.

"We can assume that CFE funds are transferred to the National Solidarity Program, because the parastate enterprise has refused to specify what it does with the extra income it receives from this fee."

The legislators explained that when the party is certain that this is true, "we will then take action against the responsible officials."

Brazen Actions

Without a doubt, among the clearest evidence that the Pronasol is serving the tricolor party is the scandal that took place in the preelectoral process in the state of Mexico last November. It revolved around a letter signed by the governor of the state, Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza, and addressed to the state PRI leader, Mauricio Valdez Rodriguez, which was published in the news media (LA NACION, No. 1815).

That letter said: "The president of the republic suggests that during the next few months, up to August, various phrases be used reflecting the idea contained in the following message, or something similar: 'Solidarity brought light to Chimalhuacan'; 'Solidarity means the introduction of potable water in Chalco'; 'Solidarity means better classrooms in the Chalco Valley.' In the second phase, the work of the party could be linked to the Solidarity Program, for example: 'The PRI represents solidarity among Mexicans'; 'The PRI is Solidarity with the president of the republic'; 'The PRI's Solidarity is with the people'; etc.

"In a third phase, we would say: 'Voting for the PRI is voting for Solidarity; 'Let us obtain better Solidarity by voting for the PRI.'"

Other cases abound. Consider the unusual support and promotion of the municipality of Chalco in Mexico State, regarded as one of the poorest communities in the country. The federal and state governments set in motion the "Chalco 2000" program there, involving more than 20 infrastructure projects, including street lights, drainage, the introduction of potable water, etc. (LA NACION, No. 1802).

Another example is provided by the constant radio and television spots of the National Solidarity Program, on both public and private channels. The information bureau of PAN has learned that on some occasions when the Pronasol is promoted, a slogan of the Institutional Revolutionary Party is included either before or after the spot. One example is sufficient: on 30 April, Channel 5, at 2210, the PRI was advertised first, and then the Pronasol.

Resounding Failure

Luis Felipe Bravo, analyst and technical secretary of the National Action Party shadow cabinet, believes that the Pronasol "is a tool of the system that is designed to make Mexican society think that if they need anything, the PRI can provide it for them."

He also spoke to LA NACION about irregularities detected last year in the state governed by Pichardo Pagaza. He said that the national program known as "tortibono" (coupons that can be exchanged for one kg of tortillas, just one more strategy of Pronasol) was supposed to benefit the neediest people, but "it was a resounding failure."

"The real needs of the population were not met, nor did the PRI serve its own purpose, which was to win people over to the party. The tortilla coupons ended up benefiting a certain group within the 'revolutionary family.'"

He went on: "The tortilla coupons did not satisfy tortilla makers, either. The government told them it would give them cash when they turned in the coupons. But when they went to the bank, they were given corn instead of money. And to make matters worse, the corn was rotting."

Government Strategies

Luis Felipe Bravo told LA NACION of the conclusions he had reached regarding this situation, which is undoubtedly directly related to the federal elections that will be held this year.

He explained that the country's impoverished conditions are the result of the economic crisis and the failed adjustment programs of previous presidential terms. "In

1988, society as a whole, and especially the most underprivileged classes, politicized the economic shortcomings. People expressed their opinions very vociferously on 6 July of that year.

"The Salinas de Gortari Government has an initial strategy of demobilizing and depoliticizing the Mexican people, as citizen participation does harm to the system. This has been demonstrated in the elections; when the electorate has participated openly, the PRI has lost."

Bravo Mena emphasized that the government's first strategy is to discredit the opposition parties, particularly the National Action Party and the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD). "The internal conflicts that have arisen in the democratic parties are being exaggerated in the mass media" (LA NACION, No. 1802).

A second strategy, he said, is to run a disorderly Congress in which the tone and climate of a debate "without rhyme or reason" is accentuated. "I think it is part of a strategy of depoliticization so that the position of president is strengthened at the expense of Congress."

He said that the third strategy involves the Pronasol, "which is aimed at heading off the politicization of the population's social and economic problems. The Solidarity Program is a quick strategy that will deal with the elements of extreme poverty, which is no cause for criticism. But it is entirely connected to a new version of paternalism.

"It is argued that this is untrue, because what is promoted is the organization of local residents; they are encouraged to make decisions and to participate. It is claimed that there is no populism.

"The truth," said the analyst, "is that with new instruments within the formula of nonpopulist economic adjustment, there is indeed paternalism, especially because subliminally all this is connected: The only one that gives hand-outs and assistance is the PRI."

Bravo Mena indicated that it is difficult to criticize the Pronasol. No one can criticize the fact that it is helping the community, or that some problems are being solved. "The problem is that this aid is being given under circumstances of general disorder.

"This disorder is partly due to the fact that the municipal jurisdictions [municipios] and the states have been made poorer, leaving the Federation as the only rich government. The country's various resources should be distributed. The communities should be allowed to be self-sufficient, and there should be no centralism."

Finally, the technical secretary of the PAN shadow cabinet stressed that "the subliminal connection between Pronasol propaganda and the PRI political campaign must be pointed out. The activities of the Pronasol are linked to the work of the PRI. Remember the letter from Pichardo Pagaza to the state leader of the tricolor party in 1989."

Direct Participation of Municipalities

The national president of the PAN, Luis H. Alvarez, discussed the Pronasol and the methods used to put it in motion at a press conference on 26 April: "The inspiration of the program is good, if the goal is to alleviate some of the many shortages that plague the people of Mexico. We support that. What we oppose is the way these resources are being funneled and the way the program is being applied.

"We believe that it is not the function of the president of the republic to be going all over the country distributing favors that have a clear partisan association. It is the local authorities, governors, and primarily the municipal jurisdictions, that should be directly, almost exclusively, involved in the management of these resources."

He went on to say that the PAN is struggling to turn this situation around, so that the country can lead a harmonious life. "The municipal jurisdictions should really be poles of development; they should not become the 'Cinderella' of the various levels of government."

He added that if the current situation continues, the government will merely be implementing programs such as the Pronasol, which will not get to the heart of the problems at all, but simply mitigate them.

In Violation of 115

The Political Constitution of Mexico states, in Title V, Article 115, Chapter 1, "On the States of the Federation," the following: "Every municipal jurisdiction shall be administered by a city council chosen by direct popular election, and there shall be no intermediate authority between such council and the government of the state."

Various institutions, specifically municipal presidents of the National Action Party, have publicly accused the federal authorities in charge of the Pronasol of violating the spirit of the preceding article.

The national leadership of the PAN did just that at a press conference last April. Luis H. Alvarez declared that "the spirit of 115 has the express purpose of ensuring that there is truly a free municipal jurisdiction in Mexico."

Nevertheless, he pointed out that the sovereignty of the country's municipal jurisdictions is being violated indiscriminately by the National Solidarity Program, regardless of whether the administrations belong to the PAN, PRI, PRD, or other parties.

For example, Rosendo Villarreal, municipal president of Saltillo, Coahuila, complained that the state government, led by Eliseo Mendoza Berrueto, devised its own program to manage Pronasol resources, thus bypassing the municipal governments.

He even claimed that the manual promoting the program called "Solidarity in Your *Colonia*" mentions the Institutional Revolutionary Party as an institution that can promote the actions of the Pronasol.

Meanwhile, the head of the city government of Leon, Guanajuato, Carlos Medina Plascencia, stated that the Federation is pursuing projects to the exclusion of the state (Baja California) and municipal governments, falling into the same paternalistic patterns of the past.

As we will demonstrate later on, the criticisms abound.

Opinions

Carlos Medina Plascencia, Municipal President of Leon, Guanajuato

[LA NACION] How is the Pronasol being applied in your municipal jurisdiction?

[Medina] In Leon, the Pronasol is violating the entire structure of Article 115 of the Constitution. Instead of the federal government promoting, supporting, fomenting, and stimulating the state governments, with the latter in turn doing the same for the municipal governments and the municipal governments for the *colonias* and the rural communities, the Federation is bypassing the state (Baja California) and municipal governments and is sticking its nose in. It goes and does things directly. This is how we are going back to the paternalistic system.

The Solidarity Program is basically good. The radio and television advertisements reflect what it should be, but it is not really like that. The Pronasol is being carried out for partisan purposes, trying to enhance the image of Mr. Carlos Salinas de Gortari and the ruling party, which continues to deteriorate.

They have not yet started to pave streets in Leon, but when they decide to do so they will have to get my authorization first. We will look at the specifications, and if everything is according to the book I will authorize it; otherwise, I will not, even if it is Solidarity.

Because what happens is that the Solidarity committees in the municipal jurisdictions are the breeding grounds for new caciques who devote their energies to exploiting society. For example, to provide electricity, water, or other services to families, the committees tell them it will cost 100,000 pesos. If they do not pay at that time, a week later the charge is 200,000 pesos, and so on.

When we asked the representative of the Guanajuato Secretariat of Planning and Budget about this matter, he told us that the committees should not receive money, but should direct the citizens to pay at the banks.

Now, the question is, who should check on this? The complaints come to the municipal authorities. Unfortunately, we cannot do anything because this program is not within our purview.

The municipal jurisdictions should be empowered to exercise that authority. However, the central government authorities do not have confidence in the officials they put in. So they have to come and make sure things get done, and that they get done "by hook or by crook" (getting results). Because time is running short, and they need to salvage the ruling party's credibility. But they are wrong, because soon the citizen becomes disillusioned with what looked great and yet yielded no results. People are being exploited.

I cannot say that about everyone; some people are seeing results, they are benefiting, because they have paid the right amount and have not been harmed.

The program is good, but the application and the manner in which it is being implemented is completely negative, not just for the parties, including the ruling party, but also for the municipal government and the desired growth of society.

Rosendo Villarreal, Municipal President of Saltillo, Coahuila

[LA NACION] How is the Pronasol being applied in your municipal jurisdiction?

[Villarreal] Part of it is managed directly by the Federation through the delegate in Coahuila. This part, called Support for Belief in Production Promises, is applied well; they have already turned over 1.35 billion pesos to us.

Nonetheless, it is the only one we handle; the other parts, called Let Us Work Together (with a budget of 4 billion pesos), Let Us Live Better (with 2 billion) and Good Schools (with 3.6 billion) were turned over directly to the state. The state set up its own program to handle the Pronasol resources, and unfortunately, that program is being run with a great deal of bias.

The state government formed committees directly in the *colonias*, bypassing the municipal jurisdiction. It is so bad that the manual for the program, which is called Solidarity in Your *Colonia*, when discussing who can promote the program, names the local agencies and the Institutional Revolutionary Party as an institution that can do so; it does not name any other party.

In fact, the committees are made up exclusively of people identified with the PRI, who have blocked any activity by the office of the municipal president. We do not act as a party (PAN), but serve everyone.

They are doing this with an eye on the federal elections, as they do not want the PAN administration to maintain its influence on the population. In this regard, we submitted a document to the Pronasol delegate in Coahuila, Rogelio Montemayor, and to the governor, emphasizing the fact that it is the municipal government that has the primary obligation to oversee primary services and to be close to the citizenry.

Ana Rosa Payan Cervera, Mayor of Merida, Yucatan

[LA NACION] How is the Pronasol being applied in your municipal jurisdiction?

[Payan] In principle, we can say that it was originally positive, since it was intended to meet the priority demands of the municipal jurisdictions and the states. It is a way of compensating the people.

But we know that this is not money from heaven or from out of the blue; it came from the pockets of every one of us Mexicans who have paid our taxes to the Federation.

What was good in the beginning has now been derailed in places. It has been used as a PRI campaign banner. We saw that last November. Many projects were carried out for partisan purposes, and this aroused some discontent among the citizens.

Projects must be paid for by everyone, but they are particularly costly to the citizen, who pays his taxes and must also contribute the corresponding percentage to the National Solidarity Program. This is good in that it creates ties of responsibility and unity, but it also makes the project more expensive in a way, especially when the work is not of the quality that should be expected.

As far as Merida is concerned, the streets are being paved, but no allowance is made for uneven ground or for gullies; no sidewalks or curbs are put in, it is just a layer of asphalt. It is starting to come undone. For example, in January there was a heavy rainstorm that flooded some homes. People went to City Hall to complain, but these projects are being done without any participation by the municipal government. It could be said that the Pronasol and the Yucatan are like parallel governments at the state and municipal levels.

No one consults the municipal jurisdiction, and therefore the projects are not turned over to us. When you build a project, you have an obligation to obtain permission from the municipal government, but they have not done that. Pronasol committees are being formed in the sports facilities they are building. When we put together some projects, along comes the Pronasol and promises to do it cheaper than the municipal jurisdiction, or it simply does not charge for them. So we think that there is a lack of respect for the municipal authority. We wish that, for the sake of Mexico's and the Yucatan's well-being, there were greater respect for municipal autonomy.

Jose Buenrostro Martinez, Municipal President of Marcos Castellanos, Michoacan

[LA NACION] How is the Pronasol being applied in your municipal jurisdiction?

[Buenrostro] The Pronasol production program has not worked completely, because the Secretariat of Planning and Budget (SPP) decides who participates in the program. We do not know what their requirements are; we found out because we saw that most people did not plant anything. The program got under way very late, and the people who plant crops were unable to file their applicatons. Others who do not do so benefited, however.

The program is good for carrying out projects. But in terms of production, it did not accomplish its goals; many people did not plant crops but did pay. One of Mexico's most serious problems is the lack of production. And if there is not a big enough budget, we will not achieve higher grain production in this country. .

We were given 29 million pesos for the Good Schools program. With that amount they wanted us to fix up 17 schools, of which only three were able to get into the program. The budget was not enough for more, and the majority of the schools are in deplorable conditions.

Ramon Barrera Bastarrachea, Municipal President of Tixpehual, Yucatan

[LA NACION] How is the Pronasol being applied in your municipal jurisdiction?

[Barrera] It has not reached my municipal jurisdiction. According to the program director, he has not had time to organize the Pronasol committees in all of the municipal jurisdictions.

Edward Perez Salazar, Municipal President of Tizimin, Yucatan

[LA NACION] How is the Pronasol being applied in your municipal jurisdiction?

[Perez] It is behind schedule. So far they have not given us a budget. Governor Dulce Maria Sauri is in charge of the budget for the whole state of Yucatan. In 1990 we were not able to use the allotted budget, because the previous mayor of Tizimin, Manuel Antonio Alcocer Hernandez, had problems in his administration. Former Governor Victor Manzanilla Schaffer gave the mayor 350 million pesos to correct his administration.

Tizimin is a large municipal jurisdiction; it has 78 ejido communities, and we need the support of the Pronasol. It is a farming area. We have already formed the Solidarity committee, and we do not know why the budget has not arrived. We have already asked the governor to speed up the project.

Humberto Rice Garcia, Municipal President of Mazatlan, Sinaloa

[LA NACION] How is the Pronasol being applied in your municipal jurisdiction?

[Rice] The Pronasol is working relatively well in the community. We have taken charge of two rural support programs and two good school programs. In addition, we are carrying out urban development projects in the inner city area. The funding has arrived and we must prove that we are managing it honestly.

* Defects in Chalco Project

91CA0162B Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish (States section) 6 Jun 91 pp 1, 3

[Article by Luis Arturo Ramirez]

[Text] Chalco, Mexico, 5 June—A month after it came on line, 100 leaks have already been discovered in the potable water system in the Chalco Valley. As a result, 300,000 residents have been left without regular water supplies, said the coordinator of the Message Group, Maria Esther Zimmermann.

The system was built with funding from the National Solidarity Program through the State Commission on

Water and Sanitation. The leaks were caused by the use of "very poor quality" materials, stated Zimmermann.

She claimed that "at a meeting with Chalco Mayor Marco Antonio Sanchez Tapia, he acknowledged that poor quality materials were used in the construction of the system." According to the State Commission on Water and Sanitation, she said, the Urbina Construction Company is to blame.

She indicated that the chairman of the commission, Jorge Ayanegui, told residents who complained of the problem that "the water supply system is not yet finished."

In addition, she said, the official agreed that the Urbina company used inadequate materials in the construction of the system.

Esther Zimmermann declared that Pronasol funds had been used to commit fraud in the construction of this project, and therefore the Message Group will demand an audit to determine who was responsible.

* Chimalhuacan Corruption

91CA0162C Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish (States section) 6 Jun 91 pp 1, 3

[Article by Luis Arturo Ramirez]

[Text] Chimalhuacan, Mexico, 5 June—The National Solidarity Program has removed the eight tank trucks that had been distributing potable water in lower Chimalhuacan because of the many complaints about illicit water sales, while 200-liter barrels were being sold for up to 5,000 pesos.

The mayor of this town, Susano Gonzalez Castro, explained that the residents of the barrios of basket makers, glaziers, weavers and saddlers, among others, had filed a number of complaints alleging that the representative and president of the Chimalhuacan Group, Juan Lopez Cornejo, had been making money on the distribution of water that the Solidarity Program had strategically implemented with eight tank trucks.

Mayor Gonzalez Castro stated that the eight tank trucks seized from Lopez Cornejo will be turned over to the Office of Municipal Water and Sanitation in order to fulfill the previously signed contract to distribute potable water efficiently among the residents of lower Chimalhuacan. Prior to the signing of the contract, they had been without this basic commodity.

Juan Lopez Cornejo said that the Chimalhuacan Group has no desire to hold government jobs, nor does it want to create conflicts among the residents, as this entity is just acting as an agent. That was why it agreed to turn over the eight tank trucks belonging to Solidarity to the municipal authorities so that they could decide how the group should function from now on.

Juan Lopez Cornejo said that the accusations are groundless, since the potable water was being distributed to the community free of charge. The residents, however, made very specific accusations, and they question the attitude of this group, which had already practically taken over the delivery of water to the citizenry at high prices.

Thus, the residents of lower Chimalhuacan asked Mayor Susano Gonzalez Castro to make sure the representatives of Solidarity take responsibility for keeping the water out of the hands of speculators. They reported that today the eight tankers ceased delivery of 120,000 liters of potable water each, and that the service would not be resumed until the situation is normalized.

The residents called upon municipal authorities to undertake a legal investigation of the people who abused the National Solidarity Program. They said that if necessary, exemplary penalties should be imposed so that these illicit practices, which are detrimental to the populace, will never be repeated.

Finally, the municipal president declared that the Office of Water and Sanitation will take over the free distribution of water from the eight tank trucks that Solidarity provided to meet the needs of local residents.

* Funds for Church Cited

91CA0162D Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 761 3 Jun 91 pp 12-14, 16-17

[Article by Manuel Robles]

[Text] Xalapa—Veracruz is serving as a testing ground for channeling National Solidarity Program funds to the Catholic Church in an "experiment" that is intended for implementation throughout the country. This was the context in which a private meeting took place between President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and the five bishops of the diocese, led by Archbishop Sergio Obeso Rivera.

Governor Dante Delgado Ranauro has already offered funding for the remodeling and construction of churches, assistance in ecclesiastical projects, and even support for building housing for priests.

In Coatzacoalcos, the Catholic Church and the state government are working together to build the city cathedral. The project is being managed by the state director of resources, Francisco Esparza Lopez, and Bishop Carlos Talavera Ramirez. They are holding public meetings to promote the project. In the region of Cordoba, churches such as that of Ixhuatlan del Cafe already boast of newly painted and renovated atriums. Parish priests in other dioceses, even in Guerrero and Michoacan, are received at city halls.

"Nevertheless, it is still too early to see concrete results," says Rafael Quiroz Osorio, parish priest of Xilotepec and dean of the presbytery of the Veracruz Episcopate. "For the time being, the state government has offered us cement, rebar, paint, slabs, and even projects to remodel churches."

This offer was made at a meeting at the archbishopric headquarters three weeks ago, attended by the bishops

and priests of the diocese and representatives of the governor, led by Miguel Angel Diaz Pedroza, secretary of the governor's cabinet.

Quiroz also revealed details of the meeting held a month earlier, on Sunday 21 April, in Panuco, between Salinas de Gortari and the Veracruz bishops. He said that the prelates were flown to Tampico and thence to Panuco, where they spoke with the president that evening.

"It was a top secret meeting; hardly anyone saw the bishops. It lasted two or three hours. Noe one knows for sure, not even us. Everything has been kept secret. The archbishop has not told us anything."

Eleven days after the meeting, on Thursday 2 May, the weekly PUNTO Y APARTE reported details. On the front page it reported that Salinas de Gortari, in a working tour of Veracruz, had met with the five bishops of the diocese, who questioned the results of the 1988 presidential elections.

According to the weekly, the meeting took place at the home of rancher Abad Guzman Rivera in Panuco, where the president spent the night.

"Suddenly," reported the publication, "five well-dressed people showed up at the residence where Salinas was staying. They behaved very discreetly, so discreetly that very few realized who they were. They were the bishops of Tuxpan (Luis Gabriel Cuara), Jalapa (Sergio Obeso Rivera), Veracruz (Jose Guadalupe Padilla Lozano), Los Tuxtlas (Guillermo Ranzahuer), and Coatzacoalcos (Carlos Talavera). The five prelates were received by the president and talked to him for 50 minutes."

That was all.

No one said anything more about the matter. The local press ignored the news. In fact, Obeso Rivera himself refused to talk about it when he was interviewed a few days ago in the town of Rinconada in the municipal jurisdiction of Emiliano Zapata, where he went to remove the parish priest.

When asked about the meeting with Salinas de Gortari, the archbishop gave the reporter a brief written response on Thursday 23 May, through the vicar general of the Xalapa Diocese, Quintin Lopez Cessa.

The response said: "It was simply a respectful and cordial greeting, during which we took the opportunity to ask him, and thus to receive an authorized response, about the reasons put forth by the Mexican Government for signing a Free Trade Agreement with the United States and Canada. We bishops are interested in having a clear understanding of the matter so that we can make ethical and moral pronouncements on this issue that is of such great importance.

"In addition, given that he was present in the area in order to dedicate some projects under the auspices of the Pronasol, we exchanged ideas about the advantage of having the citizenry participate fully in projects that benefit them."

As for church-state relations, Obeso emphasized in his written response the "increasing rapprochement" between the two sides. By way of illustration, he cited several incidents, such as the appointment of Salinas de Gortari's personal representative to the Vatican, Agustin Tellez Cruces, and the presence in Mexico of the apostolic delegate, Geronimo Prigione.

He said, "I am unable to say whether this rapprochement will crystallize into the recognition of churches as moral persons in the relatively near future. For Mexican Catholics, however, it is to be hoped that the undeniably closer relationship we are developing will go from a de facto situation to a de jure situation. If it does, I have the impression that the Mexican Government will project a more consistent image in international forums, in terms of the defense of human rights that it so intrepidly advocates."

He went on to note that for the Catholic Church "the advantages are undeniable: to enjoy the full benefits of citizenship without feeling like we are simply being tolerated. The Mexican identity would also benefit, because in an area that is so close to the heart, religion, there would be greater consistency between the law that we must respect and the Church to which we so sincerely adhere."

Voice of the Church

Obeso Rivera has twice served as president of the Mexican Episcopal Conference (CEM), and in that capacity he organized the meeting of Latin American bishops that took place in Puebla. He is one of the most influential members of the Mexican Catholic Church. Three years ago he led the bishops of Veracruz in an open challenge to the results of the presidential elections, in the form of a pastoral letter that was distributed to the mass media.

After his meeting with Salinas de Gortari, who has visited Veracruz three times since taking office, the archbishop chaired another meeting with the representatives of Governor Dante Delgado. There he offered the assistance of the Church.

The gathering took place at the headquarters of the archbishopric, and in attendance were the secretary of the governor's cabinet, Miguel Angel Diaz Pedroza, and the heads of finance, urban development, and public works, Gerardo Poo Ulibarri, Porfirio Serrano Amador, and Sergio Ruiz Mendieta, respectively. Representing the Church were the bishops of Coatzacoalcos, Tuxpan, Veracruz, and Xalapa, in addition to priests from the diocese.

"They pledged aid to all the parishes in the state," says Quiroz, who attended the meeting. "The only thing we need to do is submit the necessary application. Everything we want...I know that similar offers are being made all over the country."

A native of the town of Teoselo, Quiroz worked 10 of his 46 years in the Zongolica mountains, which helped him "see the harsh reality of peasant life." He explains that this offer was viewed with reservations by some members of

the diocese, who were fearful that it might be channeled through the municipal jurisdictions as a means of political control on the eve of the August elections.

"It was a very difficult meeting. We asked whom we should direct our applications to, the municipal jurisdictions or the boards that were established at the suggestion of the officials themselves so that the aid could be channeled. We asked whether they could be submitted right away or after the elections. They said no, the applications could be submitted any time before the end of the presidential term, no problem. But the sooner the better, they said, because that would ensure a more rapid response."

He adds: "Solidarity is the same as the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party]: Vote for the PRI. This is exactly what they want to do in every state. For now, I am seeing it specifically here, in Veracruz. Here cement, gravel, and sand are delivered on the condition that the citizens provide the manpower. I have no doubt that this has political motivations behind it, necessarily, and that it is being done to show the government's generosity so that it can remain in power, through an almost obligatory vote. Because if they gave me this, if they gave me that, if the government is so good that it did this for me, now I must respond by voting for it because ...."

Model State

Quiroz emphasizes that through the aid promised to the churches (which are owned by the nation, according to Article 27 of the Constitution), the government is undoubtedly trying to ingratiate itself with the Catholic Church, "but it is a clear demonstration of the state's manipulation, using the Church."

He states accusingly that "throughout history, the state has always approached the Church during times of crisis, because it recognizes the power the Church has among the vast majority of the population. It knows very well that with the Church as an ally, it can continue controlling much of the nation. The PRI government has been losing a great deal of that power, and the only way to keep it is by strengthing its ties with the Church. That is how I explain the Pope's visit to Mexico and the meetings between President Salinas and the bishops."

[Robles] Why in Veracruz?

[Quiroz] Because it is a buffer state where there is no political consciousness. And it has a PRI tradition, although people do not know what this means, and are living under the worst of conditions. I see Veracruz as a model for the rest of the country to follow.

[Robles] What does Archbishop Obeso Rivera say in this regard?

[Quiroz] He says that he is not naive. He believes that in view of the current situation facing the government, many communities need those resources. And in spite of the offer of aid, the prophetic voice of the Church should not be stilled; we must continue our mission.

According to priests in this capital, aid from the state government has begun to bear fruit.

Quiroz repeats that although it is still too early to see the results, there are already "several petitions" from parish priests in Veracruz who are interested in repairing their churches. He knows of the case of the church in Ixhuatlan del Cafe, in the Cordoba region, where the atrium was remodeled and painted with aid from the state government.

"The rapprochement between the Church and the state is also being promoted decisively by the state governors," adds Quiroz. "From talks I have had with other priests, I know that this type of aid is being given in Guerrero and Michoacan as well. I know of parish priests who have been called into city halls, where they have been given checks and X amount of money for repairing their churches."

Correspondent Mussio Cardenas reports that in Coatzacoalcos, the Catholic Church and the state government are working together on the construction of the cathedral. In fact, the lots where the building is to be constructed, across from Independence Park and City Hall, are being purchased in a joint effort by the director of resources for the state, Francisco Esparza Lopez, and Bishop Carlos Talavera Ramirez.

But the project has run up against opposition from landowners, who refuse to sell despite Esparza Lopez's threats of expropriation. Two months ago, he asked the landowners at a meeting at the local Chamber of Commerce to change their minds. Bishop Talavera attended the meeting. The owners refused to sell.

Coatzacoalcos, a diocese that was created seven years ago, does not yet have a cathedral. Two years ago, the Comermex Bank granted a loan of 730 million pesos to the parish priest of the San Jose church, Juan Robledo, to buy land next to the parish. He planned to raise the money by raffling off automobiles. The matter ended in a scandal, with the volunteers taking off with the ticket stubs and the cash.

Talavera wants to build the church in a more central location in the city, right across from the main park.

The construction of the Coatzacoalcos cathedral, with or without the backing of the state government of Veracruz, is not the only immediate objective of Bishop Carlos Talavera Ramirez.

The diocese's main seminary is being built on a 7-hectare lot 14 km from the port, at a cost of nearly 1 billion pesos.

Construction began last 28 February, although work officially started on 1 April when the cornerstone was laid, on a lot donated by Mr. Felix Soler Cruz.

According to Salomon Cordoba Vargas, site manager of the Pio Vera Company, which is in charge of the construction, the Maria Inmaculada Main Seminary will have ten single-story buildings, playing fields, and a wall surrounding the entire campus. Work is 25-percent complete on the first building.

"Veracruz and Anahuac brand cement is being used in the project. It is estimated that at least 400 tons of cement will be required," he stated.

Cordoba Vargas said he did not know whether the city government of Coatzacoalcos or the state government has provided materials or funding for the project.

Cementos Veracruz is the only supplier of cement for the National Solidarity Program in the state, however. The state government purchases the cement and then transfers it to the city governments for public works projects. Pedro Delgado Figueroa, father of Governor Dante Delgado Rannauro, is an executive at Cementos Veracruz.

Other priests in Xalapa are also critical of the state government's proposal. The parish priest of the church in San Bruno, Andres Hernandez Solano, sees in all of this an attempt by the government "to legitimize itself and restore its image."

"The electoral fraud and the unfulfilled promises are the last actions taken by the government. This contributes to the government's negative image. It is no secret to anyone. Everyone knows that the PRI is fractured and that the government wants to retain power, even if it has to pay a little money. That is what is happening with the Pronasol," said Hernandez Solano in the church's small office.

"But the situation is critical, because if we do not accept the aid, the Church might become an obstacle, preventing money from flowing to the people, even if they do not rise out of poverty. But if we do accept it, what would people say? Maybe the image is different, and they favor the government's position."

Raul Portillo Villanueva agrees. Portillo, a member of the diocese pastoral social secretariat, believes that the aid provided through Pronasol used to be channeled through government enterprises, and now will be channeled through the Church.

"Here in Veracruz, it is a fact," adds Portillo. "But they are playing with the Church in that regard."

"It should be thought through very carefully," says Quiroz Osorio. "I think the Church should be very certain of what it is doing, because it cannot continue to behave ingenuously in its rapprochement with the state."

One More Ally

The fact is that when priests have gathered to study the consequences of Pronasol aid to the Church, they have reached these conclusions, as reported to PROCESO:

1. The socioeconomic project, which is technocratic, neoliberal, and monetarist in nature and revolves around a plan to restructure the economy, aims at two objectives: in the short term, an economic adjustment program negotiated with external creditors and the IMF to attack the most serious effects of the crisis; and in the long term, the strategy of structural change, in which the dominant classes prefigure a new model of accumulation, reflecting the consolidation of the hegemony of big money, both domestic and foreign.

2. The assault on the popular economy that this model implies is clear: Real wages are cut drastically, collective bargaining agreements are discarded, and state property is dismantled, reducing the role of the state, subsidiary activities, and to a lesser extent, strategic activities, such as petroleum, steel, and fertilizers. In addition, the economy is further opened up to transnational capital, doing away with the protectionist system of the past. Thus, the state loses economic capacity while the lower classes grow poorer. This new policy makes it necessary to cut social spending, making sure that it does not result in the loss of legitimacy or in serious social conflicts. To prevent these situations from arising, neoliberal governments such as the Salinist government have felt the need to create charity or benefit programs to deal with the sectors of the population that suffer from extreme poverty and that previously "benefited" from social welfare policies.

3. Interests at stake. The Pronasol has the following objectives: to attenuate the deprivation and poverty caused by the neoliberal model itself, in order to prevent explosive social situations; to carry out social projects with less spending by the state; and to propose a model of citizen participation whereby poor citizens provide labor, time, and sometimes materials for public works projects, for political purposes. The Pronasol would legitimize the current administration, Carlos Salinas de Gortari in particular, and it is part of a series of spectacular measures promoted by the Salinists to restore their prestige and credibility. It would also increase the number of votes cast for the ruling party, after its scandalous defeat in the last presidential elections, and would control potentially explosive dissidence, which might eventually threaten the peaceful continuity of the modernization project.

4. The Pronasol and the Church. Lately the government has been trying to channel Pronasol funds to the Catholic Church for the remodeling and construction of churches, assistance for ecclesiastical projects, and support for priests' efforts. This action is in response to a desire to regain the legitimacy it has lost among a segment of the population that has great social influence and can sting the state with its criticism, to win one more ally on the national scene, and to overcome the original isolation of the Salinist movement. In this way, it intends to support the overall effort to bring about a new rapprochement between the state and the Church, which has been expressed as well in all the negotiations for the legal recognition of the Church and the establishment of relations with the Vatican. The ecclesiastical institution will thus become one more pawn in the strategy of modernization and structural change. Another objective is to isolate the ecclesiastical sectors that are critical of government policy, and yet another is to demonstrate that the state can show favoritism toward the Church in Mexico and can cooperate in its projects, thereby detracting from the legitimacy of the elements that are critical of the government.

5. The Pronasol funds come from public revenues and from the sale of parastate enterprises; therefore, they belong to the people of Mexico. These resources used to be channeled through the secretariats of state as part of social

spending, and now they have a much more explicit political slant in favor of the regime. Behind all this lies an attempt to manipulate that must be exposed in a process of critical analyses and awareness. The Church's strategy cannot be based merely on an antigovernment policy; it must have critical, proactive criteria that are amenable to the creation of new realms of power. Pronasol funds can be used legitimately through critical self-managing boards, leaving aside the official publicity involving such funds, and of course our actions an opinions should not be made conditional or dependent on the government.

That is as far as they got.

In fact, the relationship between the Church and the Pronasol is nothing new. Last year, during Pope John Paul II's visit to Mexico, the state governments cooperated openly and closely with the clergy. Chalco, in the state of Mexico, where the federal government spent the largest chunk of Pronasol funds in 1990 (180 billion pesos), was the official point of departure for the Pope's tour of the interior of the country. There also, state government officials worked closely with the Church.

"The Pope's visit would not have been possible without the help of the state government," asserted Veracruz Bishop Jose Guadalupe Padilla Lozano.

* Favoritism in Oaxaca Town

91CA0162E Oaxaca NOTICIAS in Spanish
18 May 91 p 7A

[Text] In San Isidro Monjas, Zaachila, people are furious with the members of the Solidarity committee led by Mr. Luis Ramirez. They say Ramirez has distributed all the tiles that the Solidarity Program donated to the town among his relatives, including brothers and sisters, cousins, and aunts and uncles, and that the town as a whole has not benefited at all.

"Now that a Solidarity committee is being formed in Zaachila with nothing but PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] members, we advise them not to put their full faith in these committees," say the complaining parties. "The benefits are only for relatives, since we in San Isidro Monjas were offered aid for low-income housing, Mexican Telephone, tiles for our homes, a health clinic, etc., and in the end it all turned out to be sweet-talk. Everything has been distributed among the relatives of Mr. Luis Ramirez.

"We remember," they say, "that when Felipe Ramirez was in the municipal agency, everyone in town received support for buying land, and social projects were built for everyone. Now that Gilberto Ortega Talledos, Luis Ramirez, and Luis and Abraham Martinez Reyes have come to the municipal agency, everything has fallen apart, because all those men want benefits only for their families.

"We are reporting this to NOTICIAS Voice and Image of Oaxaca because this newspaper is concerned about the problems of the towns," they said. "These authorities and the Solidarity Committee have never informed the town of how this government interest or support is being managed. We are suffering because of mismanagement at the National Company for Basic Commodities (Conasupo), for example, as they never provide detailed reports to the people; and because of Mexican Telephone, therefore, and the tiles that were donated by the Solidarity Program. The program says that the people who have the least should benefit, yet the benefits have gone to those who have the most, in this case the relatives of the chairman of the Solidarity Committee.

"All of the problems in San Isidro Monjas can be blamed on Mr. Luis Ramirez, chairman of the Solidarity Committee, because all of the tiles donated by the federal government to the residents of this place were distributed by him among his relatives. Therefore, the people no longer want to cooperate with the projects concerning the Primary School, the Municipal Cemetery, the City Hall, and the sports facilities," they concluded.

El Salvador

Foreign Minister on FMLN Role in Politics

PA2806044491 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0329 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Pacas Castro today recognized the right of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] to become involved in politics as long as their weapons are laid down and the Constitution is observed.

Several government officials have made statements regarding the FMLN announcement to start getting involved in political activities in San Salvador. In this regard, Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas Castro said he is unaware of how the FMLN is preparing to join the country's political life, but at any rate, they must first lay down their weapons.

[Begin Pacas recording] [Words indistinct], but we would first have to see their status. We cannot accept a political group with an armed wing. If they want to join civilian life, the peaceful life, they must first lay down their weapons, they must demobilize themselves and accept the rules of the game. The Constitution clearly establishes that there cannot be armed groups. The only armed wing recognized by the Constitution is the Armed Forces. That is the government's position. We are here to respect the Constitution and the laws of the country. [end recording]

He also said the government is completely willing to sign a cease-fire. All they are waiting for is the decision of the FMLN concerning its political commitment.

[Begin Pacas recording] The important topics have practically all been discussed. All that remains to be settled is the cease-fire and in that regard, the road we have traveled is a long one. The other topic pending is the issue of the Armed Forces. It has been nationally and internationally accepted that it is a topic that has been over 90 percent discussed, and what remains to be settled at this time is a cease-fire. The FMLN, itself, presented an outline of the agenda drafted in Managua and its discussion is practically over. All that remains, I repeat and insist, is a cease-fire. We do not believe there is any reason to delay it any longer. [end recording]

Pacas, however, refrained from commenting on the agreements signed in the latest dialogue meeting. He only said the peace talks continue according to the agenda. UN participation is a guarantee for the agreements.

Guatemala

University Strike Leader Gunned Down in Capital

PA2706154291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1427 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Oscar Oswaldo Luna Aceituno, a labor leader from the University of San Carlos, was shot to death on Wednesday night in the southern part of the Guatemalan capital, according to police reports released today.

Luna Aceituno, 50, led a strike movement at the university to demand wage increases. The strike paralyzed the university for the entire month of May.

The labor leader was attacked by several men who were lying in wait for him at the corner where his house is located in a low-income sector of the capital.

"The victim received two shots to the head, fired from close range, which killed him instantly," according to a police spokesman.

Luna Aceituno, a carpenter by profession, was currently employed as chief of maintenance at the university.

Honduras

Armed Forces Spokesman on Rebels, Weapons

PA2706201591 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 26 Jun 91 p 4

[Text] On 25 June, the Armed Forces expressed their concern over the reactivation of rebel groups who may have sophisticated weapons in their arsenals, such as the one used on the night of 23 June against the ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] offices in Tegucigalpa.

Colonel Napoleon Santos Aguilar, the official Armed Forces spokesperson, said that "we are concerned about minuscule groups carrying out attacks such as this one," within the framework of the opportunity that the government—with the support of the Armed Forces—has offered the armed rebel groups.

Santos Aguilar said that those groups do not defend ideological issues. They are "plain anarchists" who seek to create chaos in the country.

The military spokesperson affirmed, however, that such actions do not "endanger the stability of the country" in the least. He said that military forces have started a series of actions to counter any attacks "these scums" may attempt.

The Armed Forces are on the trail of those responsible for these actions, the officer said, and when they are found, they will be brought before the proper courts.

According to the military spokesperson, the RPG-7 rocket used by the Morazanist Patriotic Front against the ONUCA offices may be part of the materiel that passes through Honduras to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). He pointed out that this type of weapon "has not been normally used by these terrorist groups."

"This demonstrates that there may be more of this type of weapon in the hands of these rebels," he concluded.

Nicaragua

Recontras Said Attacking Quilali Police Garrison

PA2706134091 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1223 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Telephone relay from Ocotal by correspondent Jose Leon Caseres—live]

[Text] Strong clashes have been under way in Quilali near the police garrison since early this morning. First Lieutenant Jorge Galeano, second in command in Nueva Segovia, reports that approximately 100 heavily armed men with Fal rifles have surrounded the Quilali garrison with the intention of taking it over. Galeano disclosed that only nine soldiers are resisting. It is unknown if there are wounded among the police force because the attackers have cut the telephone lines as part of the commando action. Galeano said that the recontras have been demanding shares of political power in Quilali for several days. Thus far, the Ocotal police have not made any decision with regard to this incident; they await orders from the regional police or the First Region Government Ministry delegate, Isaldo Castillo.

It is unknown who commands the recontra action, but it is assumed that these are people linked to Commander Ruben, who leads the most radical wing of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. The clashes in Quilali are taking place in the downtown area where the police garrison is located. This is all the news we have on this situation in Quilali, where approximately 100 RN members have the police garrisons surrounded—heavy clashes are under way.

Chamorro Speech on First 'Anniversary of Peace'

PA2706224591 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1746 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Speech by President Violeta Chamorro on the occasion of the first "anniversary of peace," at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] Your Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, bishop of the Episcopal Conference; presidents and members of the branches of power; Mr. Vice President of the Republic; commanders and members of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]; representatives of the Evangelical and Moravian Churches; General Humberto Ortega, chief of the National Army of Nicaragua; members of the diplomatic corps and international organizations; members of the cabinet; special guests:

One year ago today, the disarmament of the RN members came to an end. This gesture marked the end of the war that the Nicaraguans had confronted for many years. Thanks to the disarmament and the truce that marked the end of the civil war, we began a new era in the life of Nicaragua: the era of peace and of democratic progress with justice and freedom for all. That tremendous effort was complemented with the noble aid of ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America], the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification], and the OAS; of friendly countries such as Venezuela, Mexico, and Spain; and of the constant mediation of our beloved pastor Miguel Obando y Bravo.

All of Nicaragua acknowledges the patriotism of the RN members who had the courage and confidence to turn in their rifles under the protection of their democratic beliefs and the laws and Constitution of the nation. You did not need the false security that a firearm provides; you had the certainty one obtains from the hope of building a society where respect for a state of law and the democratic institutions will prevail.

When the disarmament of the RN was completed, my government was able to initiate the change to strengthen peace and start working together with all the groups participating in the national concerted effort to reestablish the economy of the country. You did not have any land or homes, not even a roof for your families. However, you did have the strength of your democratic ideas, and your security was based on my promises. I was elected by a large majority of the Nicaraguan people. Those who trust democracy know that the will of the people is the legitimate will of our Heavenly Father. The voice of the people is the voice of God, and the people made their voice heard at the polls on 25 February 1990.

Those who are today demanding that they need a rifle because they have to defend their homes, their land cooperatives, or their farms and land are mistaken. There is no excuse, judging from the civic and patriotic example you have given. To those Nicaraguans who give excuses for keeping their weapons and to those groups who today admit they still have arms, the entire nation demands to know: Weapons for what? Weapons against whom? In this Republic, only the authorities recognized by the Constitution and the law have the power to bear firearms for the protection of the citizens.

Weapons for what? Is the country being invaded by a foreign aggressor? Are Nicaraguans being confronted by a dictatorship that violates human rights? Or is it that some want to use those weapons to attack their brothers, to murder them in the mountains, or to sow terror? Weapons against whom? Will they perhaps be used to attack the government or the people, or to defend themselves from those who only have their hardworking hands to defend themselves?

At any rate, I urge any armed Nicaraguans to lay down their weapons and courageously trust in the fatherland and this government, which is firmly engaged in building a Nicaragua for all, regardless of political colors or beliefs.

Now that the authorities of the Sandinist Front have committed themselves to work together with the government and the RN in the total disarmament of the civilians of any political group, we are all even more committed to consolidating peace in Nicaragua.

My government, in the midst of thousands of problems, difficult circumstances, and the problems all Nicaraguans are aware of, has tried to help the RN and their families, so they can return to their communities and

towns to resume the lives they once abandoned, when they left everything behind to wage a civil war. Today, you are an important part of Nicaragua's productive life.

The agreements that the government signed with the RN contain some positive achievements and aspects that have been complied with, such as the 1,000 manzanas of land that were distributed to the majority of the former rebels. Despite the aid received earlier from the U.S. Government, which has been handled through the CIAV and OAS, there is much more, however, that remains to be complied with and to be done. There are many things that are still pending, that have not been complied with, and that will be implemented later, but I promise you all the promises will be kept. I ask you to be patient so we are able to meet all matters that are pending, and to work together and undertake new tasks that will provide solutions to your family needs.

In this same respect, we will gradually professionalize the National Police to strengthen the process of reconciliation and to reaffirm the security of RN members and their families. Today, I thank you and place at your disposal the National Reconciliation Program of the Presidency [Program de Reconcilicion Nacional de la Presidencia de la Republica] so that all national and international resources can be directed to promote development in the towns where your are living, which used to be war fronts and which now constitute a low-income rural front. We will turn the National Reconciliation Program into the new frontier of progress and development in the country. In addition, I am summoning the entire social cabinet to hold a work session on 5 and 6 July to define a more cohesive government social policy to be implemented during the remainder of my presidential mandate. Decentralization and support for small-scale producers in rural and urban areas constitute policies that will undoubtedly contribute to your own effort to move the country forward, taking it out of backwardness and poverty. To help widows, orphans, and war handicapped, the day before yesterday I signed the decree creating the Social Care Fund for the Downtrodden [Fondo de Atencion Social para los Oprimidos], FASO, which will provide assistance and support to all war victims, and to the most vulnerable among our poor. I also want to announce that, in response to your request, in a few days we will be creating the War Victims Assistance Institute [Instituto de Atencion a las Victimas de Guerra], reforming the old Commission of Support to the Combatants, which only cared for the Sandinist People's Army's war victims. This institute will be tasked with ensuring that the aid to these persons will be directed and coordinated to help the families of those killed or handicapped in the war. Before concluding, I wish to say that in the democratic Nicaragua that respects and lives in a climate of freedom of the press and speech, there are still news media that promote agitation and confrontation, something that does not help the task of achieving the reconciliation of the Nicaraguan family. I want to invite them to try to divulge news in a responsible and objective manner, thus contributing to peace and stability.

Dear Nicaraguans, we have embarked on a democratic course amidst difficulties. We know the task is hard, but we are prepared to fight adversity and problems. Let us, all Nicaraguans united and rallied around the blue and white flag, protected by the flag of freedom and peace, shake each others' hand. My husband, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, used to say that one cannot bring peace to a country by means of arms. Indeed, in today's Nicaragua, the odious past of war is behind us. Nothing or nobody will make us change, and we will not return to the past.

We must clear paths with a firm step, building a new Nicaragua in a regime based on social justice, consolidating democracy and the prosperity of the economy. As a mother and as the president of all Nicaraguans, I sincerely affirm that now more than ever, the Nicaraguan people's commitment to democracy is profoundly rooted in their hearts. Before concluding, I want to thank all my RN friends and former rebels for this decoration I am carrying. God bless you all, and thank you.

FSLN, RN Agree To Promote Disarmament

PA2706223091 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Jun 91 pp 1, 16

[Text] The FSLN-RN [Sandinist National Liberation Front - Nicaraguan Resistance] Commission met in Managua yesterday and agreed to conduct efforts within their respective organizations to convince their members of the need to disarm civilians. They also agreed to meet again on an unspecified date before 1 July.

The fact that a joint communique calling for the total disarmament of civilians was not issued was surprising, as both sides issued statements in that regard two days ago. Sandinist Deputy Luis Enrique Figueroa of Chontales said at the end of the working session that "more than a political move, this must be viewed as a real effort."

In that regard, Labor Minister Francisco Rosales, who has coordinated the two FSLN-RN meetings, said that "what happens, and you should try to understand this, is that in a peace process it is not easy to solve all the problems in 24 hours. We must create political awareness within the rank and file."

Figueroa, one of the four FSLN delegates to the commission, said that "sometimes communiques make too much political noise." The subject of disarmament and land property must be handled with "seriousness, responsibility, and frankness, because we could issue a communique today and create false expectations."

The media was allowed to cover the meeting briefly. FSLN Deputy Carlos Manuel Morales, of Las Segovias, delivered the FSLN's proposed draft declaration to RN representative Enrique Zelaya. Morales stressed the need to prepare a timetable on the actions that must be carried out to convince armed civilians that they must turn in their weapons.

BARRICADA unsuccessfully tried to solicit reactions from RN representatives at the end of yesterday's session, which was called after the 24 June meeting of the Security Commission (government-RN) to which Commander Daniel Ortega, the FSLN coordinator, was invited.

Enrique Zelaya (Dr. "Henry") who headed the RN delegation, refused to make any statement at the end of the meeting held at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center, which lasted approximately three hours.

We also tried to interview RN delegate Bernardo Pastora, but on the three occasions we tried to contact him, we were told that he was "meeting" with Oscar Sobalvarro (Ruben), deputy director of the Nicaraguan Institute for Repatriation and leader of the Civic Resistance Association.

FSLN Deputy Figueroa said that although there is consensus on the need to work toward disarmament, that aspect is not conditioned to the delivery of land.

He added that during yesterday's meeting, government representatives expressed their willingness to resolve the problem of land titles in rural areas. Figueroa said that although this was not a final decision, it was a positive step to reduce tension in that important sector of the country.

FSLN and RN leaders exchanged their addresses and telephone numbers to keep the channels of communication open. The government promised to ensure that the next meeting takes place before 1 July.

It was learned that during the talks, government representatives were worried that the disarmament problem could slip out of the government's control, and that the FSLN and RN would be the only ones in charge of the process.

Figueroa said that the process must be institutionalized.

Daniel Nunez, president of the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen (UNAG) said that although no communique was issued, "this was an initial effort. There is a similarity between RN and UNAG problems."

Nunez reported that 69 cooperatives have been occupied and some 200 have been threatened by UNO [National Opposition Union] sectors. He added that the FSLN-RN talks show "that we are on the right path, and constitute a message to the warmongering sectors trying to stoke the fire and have us clash with the RN again."

He stressed that after the meeting with RN representatives, "we are convinced that neither the FSLN nor the RN will lend themselves as instruments to create confrontations or to back ultrarightist or ultraleftist attitudes."

Panama

Foreign Ministry Denies U.S. in Charge of Fort

PA2706201791 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 27 Jun 91 p 9A

[Article by Eduardo Soto P.]

[Text] The refusal of a U.S. soldier to allow members of the Legislative Assembly's Budget Commission to enter Fort Espinar, located in Colon, has generated hard feelings among some legislators who now question the nation's sovereignty over this territory.

In light of this incident, the Foreign Ministry yesterday denied that the facility had been turned over to the U.S. Government, thereby reducing Panama's authority over the site.

The Foreign Ministry, through a communique issued yesterday, explained to the community the details of the incident, which led to the oral confrontation between members of the Budget Commission and a U.S. soldier.

The incident—one of the few at this level since the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama—took place on 18 June and, according to the Foreign Ministry, occurred because of "a lack of coordination" between the combined police forces, who did not alert the fort's authorities about the tour.

When banned from entering the military installation, the Budget Commission members questioned the pertinent authorities about the possibility that the country had lost its rights over this territory in the wake of the U.S. military intervention in 1989.

At Fort Espinar, only 474 hectares have reverted to Panama, while the greater part of the area remains under U.S. jurisdiction.

During the events of 20 December 1989, the Americans took over those areas and kept them until July 1990, leading to the assumption that sovereignty had been lost over the sector.

Family housing, community services, and the ammunition storage facilities of the U.S. Army are subject to the military rulings coordinated under the Canal Treaty.

U.S. Command Said To Arrest Labor Leader

PA2706212091 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Jun 91 p 16

[Text] The PRD [Revolutionary Democratic Party] faction at the Legislative Assembly reported that Juan McKenzie, president of the National Council of Dismissed Workers, was arrested yesterday—allegedly by members of the U.S. Southern Command's Military Intelligence Battalion 470—and taken to Fort Clayton.

According to the report, McKenzie was first taken to the Technical Judicial Police office in Balboa and later to Fort Clayton. A U.S. source denied any further knowledge of McKenzie's arrest.

McKenzie worked for the National Institute of Telecommunications until December 1989, when he was dismissed by the government of President Guillermo Endara.

The government recently reported the existence of an alleged plot by Panamanian leftists residing in Mexico to perpetrate destabilizing actions in Panama.

Legislator: Drug Actions Not Stopped by MLAT

PA2706200791 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 25 Jun 91 p 12

[Article by Yali Enrique Pitti]

[Text] Opposition legislator Miguel Bush told EL SIGLO that drug trafficking and money laundering will continue in our country and that the mere signing of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty [MLAT] will not be an obstacle to these crimes. Bush claims that visible proof of this is that in many world banking centers money laundering continues despite the fact that treaties similar to the MLAT are in force.

The legislator claims that he has had access to documents where it is clearly demonstrated that in the United States and the Bahamas money resulting from drug trafficking continues to be laundered. Bush specifically made reference to the Falcon and Magluta cases and to the indictment issued against Juan Acosta, who mysteriously died in Miami.

"It can hardly be said that the MLAT signed between Panama and the United States will stop drug money laundering and drug trafficking in our country, when the United States has not been able to do away with these crimes nor eliminate drug abuse in their own society," Bush noted.

Bush added that the MLTA is nothing more than a judicial invasion of our nation by the tax and fiscal laws of the United States. "The treaty is part of what the United States has imposed on Panama as a condition to the $42 million donation," Bush stressed.

To conclude, the legislator said that "with or without a treaty" drug trafficking and money laundering will continue in Panama; currently those crimes continue to be committed even though the U.S. Coast Guard is patrolling Panamanian waters on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

[Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish on 25 June carries on page 12 a 240-word article by Oscar Eduardo Lasso quoting Olimpo Saez, chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Legislative Assembly, who says "the majority of the Assembly will support the MLAT because this agreement does not affect the juridical sovereignty of Panama, nor does it affect the administration of justice in our country."]

Endara Denies Democratization Process 'in Danger'

PA2706134991 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 Jun 91 p 1-A

[Article by Julia Elena Alvear]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara denied on 25 June that Panama's democratization process is in danger, despite the incidents that have taken place in the country over the past few weeks.

Endara said that his government's lack of popularity is because it is a government of transition, moving from dictatorship to democracy. Endara made these statements to reporters before closing a meeting of the Ibero-American Association of Chambers of Commerce [AICO].

All transition governments must adopt measures that will often affect certain sectors, thus diminishing popularity, as was the case in Venezuela and Spain when they moved from dictatorship to democracy, argued Endara.

The president encouraged the members of the press not to be so negative and to pay less attention to demonstrations held by just 300 people.

The president also praised the contribution of private business to progress in Panama. Endara recognized that it is "they who deserve the applause and not the government."

Arias Calderon Rejects Plebiscite for Government

PA2706173191 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Jun 91 pp 1, A-2

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and opposition leader, admitted yesterday that there is "growing frustration" among the Panamanians in regard to the work of President Guillermo Endara, but he rejected holding a plebiscite to decide the fate of the government and the Legislative Assembly.

Arias Calderon, who is also president of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), admitted that the Endara administration is experiencing a political and economic crisis because it is showing signs of "consolidating a democracy by looking to the past."

The PDC was expelled from the Endara government three months ago and afterwards announced it would wage a strong opposition to the ruling coalition.

According to Arias Calderon, the Endara government is regressing to governmental practices similar to those of 1968, i.e., "a democracy without social sensitivity, but having much tolerance for influence peddling, and abuses and arbitrary actions."

Businessman and journalist Alberto Conte, coordinator of the National Civic Crusade, on 24 June called for a plebiscite to decide whether Endara should remain in office and whether the Legislative Assembly should be closed.

Endara said a plebiscite goes against "democratic ideas," while Arias Calderon asked for "constitutional patience" to replace the current administration through general elections in 1994.

Vice President Arias Calderon warned that it is "counterproductive" to request a plebiscite because such an interruption in the constitutional order "weakens the democratization process."

The suggestion by the Civic Crusade, the main opposition to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, comes amid public protests against the Endara administration and

against the economic modernization policy drawn up by the Planning Ministry with the support of international financial institutions.

Arias Calderon admitted that the country is threatened with a social explosion that cannot be prevented with "magic formulas or inopportune solutions."

According to Arias Calderon, any solution other than elections as established by the Constitution "would further worsen social stagnation, instability, and insecurity."

The PDC has demanded overall reforms to the Social Security Fund but without placing all the burden of the sacrifice on the beneficiaries. It has also demanded that the 13th month bonus be paid to government workers and it has called for an economic policy in which there will be a balance between the payment of the foreign debt and the social debt.

Arias Calderon denied that Panama is a "semicolony" of the United States, as the opposition and former ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) has charged. He described such charges as "rhetorical and ideological."

Government Fares Poorly in Public Opinion Poll

PA2706201491 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Jun 91 p 1

[Article by Franco Rojas F.]

[Text] According to a public opinion poll, if elections were held today in Panama, the current Second Vice President Guillermo Ford would win with 15 percent of the votes, while 54.5 percent would not even vote, and 45.4 percent are demandiing new faces and parties in the political arena.

Thus reveals the latest Dichter & Neira poll contracted by LA PRENSA to ascertain—in a scientific fashion—what the electoral tendencies are among Panamanians over 18, in light of the nation's prevailing political circumstances.

According to the results, Ford would have to rule the nation alone because 12.5 percent of Panamanians would vote for "others," while 7.7 percent voted in favor of Christian Democratic Party President Ricardo Arias Calderon, who, since April, has become part of the opposition after being ousted from the government alliance.

The poll revealed that current president Guillermo Endara obtained 2.4 percent of the votes, which is below the following: singer Ruben Blades with 2.9 percent, Carlos Ivan Zuniga with 2.6 percent, and Mayor Omaira Correa with 2.5 percent.

The Ditcher & Neira poll, which has a 3-percent margin of error, was conducted based on samples taken at random and disclosed that Endara's popularity "has not changed significantly in the past three months."

In this regard, the poll conducted between 29 May and 2 June in Panama City, Colon, David, Las Tablas, Chitre, Santiago, Penonome, La Chorrera, and San Miguelito adds that the Endara administration's popularity rated 14.9 percent, that is a 0.9 percent gain compared to February's figures.

Meanwhile, Ford's role on public matters obtained 39.5 percent support, raising his popularity by 4 percent. Ford, according to the Dichter & Neira poll, was most popular in the countryside and among persons with lower levels of education.

Foreign Minister Julio Linares obtained 18.2-percent approval, losing one percent of the votes since the previous poll. According to the poll, the majority of Linares' support came from the male population in Panama City.

The level of popularity current government officials has decreased across the board, with some exceptions, according to the poll.

The poll adds that 50.3 percent of Panamanians expressed their preference for "none" of the current political parties represented at the Legislative Assembly.

The PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party]—which supported Manuel Antonio Noriega's past military regime—obtained 6.2 percent of the votes among those polled by Dichter & Neira, while the Arnulfist, Endara's party, obtained 11.9 percent, below the Christian Democratic Party's 13.6 percent.

Argentina

Foreign Minister Appeals for U.S. 'Benevolence'

PY2706185091 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Guido di Tella has appealed to the benevolence of the United States. In New York, he added that this benevolence will contribute to the recovery of the Argentine economy.

Di Tella emphasized that the relations between his government and the military sector are better than ever. Speaking of the economic situation, he pointed out that we Argentines have learned a very hard lesson, and we want to change and be a better country.

Judge Orders Former President Alfonsin Arrested

PY2706225491 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Federal Judge Santiago Fassi from Rio Gallegos has ordered the precautionary imprisonment of former President Raul Alfonsin and impounded up to 100 million australes of his assets on charges of having committed aggravated contempt against Judge Alfredo Gustavo Bustos in 1989.

Alfonsin, leader of the Radical Civic Union, will not go to jail because the court upheld a petition for him to be exempted from serving a jail term.

Plans To Privatize CNEA Sector Proposed

PY2706233591 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 25 Jun 91 p 17

[By Eleonora Gasman]

[Text] Manuel Mondino [chairman of the National Commission for Atomic Energy—CNEA] returned very happy from his trip abroad. For the CNEA, he brought several contracts with countries of the "Nuclear Club"—Great Britain and Canada among them. He was also made president of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

But all these compliments have nothing to do with the CNEA's internal difficulties. There are debts accrued by enterprises like the SEGBA [Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Services] and the State Power and Water Enterprise for the purchase of electricity from the Atucha-1 and Embalse power plants. However, what worries Mondino most is a report prepared by Planning Secretary Vittorio Orsi, outlining plans to restructure and privatize the CNEA productive sector, a project that clashes with the decisions of the CNEA Executive Board.

On 21 June, Mondino told a group of reporters that his happiness faded as he approached Ezeiza Airport. When he landed on Argentine soil, his advisers ran to brief him on current problems: They told him that the electricity companies—the two mentioned above—owe the CNEA $47.5 million and they have not yet paid their debts. If that situation persists, there will be problems in guaranteeing the maintenance of the two nuclear plants.

Without sufficient money, the next shutdown for maintenance of the Embalse Plant will probably take longer than 30 days. If that happens, the national electricity network will have problems: Nuclear plants account for 7.8 percent of the overall installed capacity, and they provide 20 percent of the overall generated energy.

"How long will this disorder prevail in public enterprises?" Mondino asked. The general feeling at the CNEA is that the Economy Ministry does not worry too much about what is happening in the nuclear sector. Electric Energy Under Secretary Carlos Bastos has barely bothered to ask SEGBA and the State Power and Water Enterprise to pay their debts.

The front of greatest conflict stems from the Planning Secretariat, where hardworking Vittorio Orsi has managed to convince President Carlos Menem to sign Decree 1022. This decree states that Orsi will assist the executive branch in overseeing the investments made by the CNEA, namely in Atucha-2 and the Heavy Water Industrial Plant.

The plans go further because of a document that has circulated among top-level employees gives an idea of the way of thinking of Orsi and his advisers Raul Boix Amat, Techint Company Nuclear Department director, and Alejandro Parker, director of the Argentine Writers Association. That dossier, which has no signature, refers to other matters:

- From the political standpoint, it suggests that there is only one remaining obstacle in Argentine-U.S. relations now that the Condor 2 project is out of the way; that is the nuclear issue. It suggests that the Laboratory for Radiochemical Processes (LPR) should be dismantled, because the LPR can only produce plutonium by reprocessing spent nuclear fuel. Likewise, there is another idea to turn the Heavy Water Industrial Plant (another "sensitive" component) into an ammonia plant.

- Concerning energy, the document proposes that Argentina does not require any more atomic plants until well into the next century. It proposes the conclusion of Atucha-2, getting the Siemens company to finish it as a "turnkey" project. To continue that project, the CNEA will have to contribute $50 million to the German credit that has already been granted.

- To operate the two nuclear plants, and eventually the third—should it become operational—the plan calls for the creation of a joint enterprise that will entrust its operation to a private concessionaire. The CNEA will be responsible for the nuclear risk, the major repairs, and the nuclear waste [decomiso]. The plan also proposes privatizing the production of uranium oxide at the Cordoba factory complex, which will reportedly be run by Conuar [Argentine Nuclear Fuel Corporation, Inc.], a company owned by Perez Companc, which today manufactures nuclear fuel with technology provided by the CNEA.

- Regarding the Gastre nuclear waste dump, the plan proposes calling bids for the construction of the dumping ground by an international company and then renting it out.

None of these plans are viewed well by Mondino, and much less by the CNEA personnel who warn that this plan is a new attempt to smother independent technological development.

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Receives Peruvian Army Commander

PY2806001291 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] President of the Republic, Jaime Paz Zamora, met today at Government Palace with Peruvian Army Commander General Pedro Villanueva. The Peruvian general is visiting our country at the invitation of Bolivian Army General Guido Sandoval.

Gen. Villanueva said at a news conference, that it is a waste of time to think about an arms race and that one should instead think about the countries' development.

[Begin Villanueva recording] We think that we, the Armies, must be very, very united now. We must strive for technical cooperation. This is what the Bolivian and Peruvian Armies are doing.

We are striving for common objectives aimed at (?achieving) development alone. If the commander general will allow me, I would like to particularly emphasize the great civic actions being carried out by the Bolivian Army.

I want to thank you very much for the opportunity you have given me, and I once again send my special greetings to my Bolivian brothers. [end recording]

Brazil

Congress Rejects Measure To Raise Salaries

Public Servants 'Severely' Affected

PY2706175791 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Congress has rejected Provisional Measure No. 296 which deals with the readjustment of the salaries of civil and military public servants.

Following several attempts to reach an agreement on the subject, Congress this afternoon rejected the provisional measure during a session at which the measure was rejected by 329 votes to 111.

Deputy Humberto Souto, pro-government congressional leader, has said that public servants will be most the severly affected by this decision.

[Begin recording] [Souto] We deplore the fact that the 800,000 public servants who have already benefited from this measure now do not know what will happen to their salaries. We could have reached an agreement that would have included university and technical school employees, thus totalling more than 1 million public servants.

[Unidentified reporter] Will they have to repay the increase that has already been paid?

[Souto] There has not been any decision on that point yet, because if a provisional measure is not approved by Congress, a law must be approved—also by Congress—to regulate the rejected measure. So far, we do not have any experience on this situation because Congress has thus far not approved any laws regulating legal relations included in the rejected measure. [end recording]

Souto added that the consequences of the congressional decision will be analyzed as of today.

Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho is bewildered over the congressional decision. He said that Congress must now decide what will happen to the 32 billion cruzeiros that has been paid under the terms of the rejected measure in form of salary increases in May.

Passarinho said that the government had decided that if today's measure had been approved, Provisional Measure No. 297 would have been issued tomorrow. This measure seeks to readjust the salaries earned by 154,000 public servants who received no salary increase, among them 52,000 teachers and 102,000 technicians.

Also, the government intends to issue another provisional measure in August that will grant a general readjustment to all public servants, retroactive to July. The minister said that this measure, which will grant an across-the-board salary readjustment in August, will still be issued, although it is not known for sure whether it will be retroactive.

[Begin Passarinho recording] Perhaps we could mention the following: When the across-the-board readjustment measure is issued we will check to see if the Constitution allows specific amendments. [end recording]

The minister deplored the attitude of Congress, noting that the 1.2 million public servants who lost their readjustment are the most severly affected.

The June payroll will be delayed because new calculations will have to be made.

Passarinho Submits Resignation

PY2806034691 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho has resigned his post due to the government's defeat in Congress, which yesterday rejected the provisional measure to readjust public servant salaries. However, President Fernando Collor did not accept Passarinho's resignation and has confirmed him as the government's political coordinator.

Here is reporter Alexander Garcia direct from Brasilia with more information:

[Garcia] There are two version of the justice minister episode.

The Press Secretariat of the Justice Ministry reported that the minister, disgusted with the government's defeat—which reflects on his capacity as the government's political coordinator—came to a meeting at Planalto Palace at 0900 with the intention of submitting his resignation to leave the president free to choose another political coordinator.

According to the Justice Ministry's version, Minister Passarinho submitted his resignation and President Collor then turned it down.

On the other hand, the presidential spokesman reported that President Collor did not receive a formal resignation note from the justice minister. According to President Collor's report to his spokesman, Minister Passarinho was complaining about the work of the congressional leaders and turned to them and asked if they wanted him to submit his resignation. The president interrupted Passarinho, saying: Imagine that.

Collor Rejects Salary Payback

PY2706184991 Rio de Janeiro Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Presidential Spokesman Claudio Humberto has just stated that President Fernando Collor believes it is unacceptable to force public employees to pay back the salary hike they received in May. He added that the president believes Congress will find a solution to this problem.

Rezek Minimizes Maritime Incident With Uruguay

PY2806005991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2234 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Jun (EFE)—Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek today described as "minor" the incident that occurred on 25 June when two Brazilian fishing ships apparently entered Uruguayan territorial waters.

Jorge Ribeiro, Brazilian ambassador to Montevideo, today conveyed to Itamaraty the terms of a verbal note on the incident that was given to him on 26 June by the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry.

Sources from Itamaraty and the Brazilian Navy have minimized the incident and have reiterated that ships from both countries often navigate in territorial waters adjacent to their common border.

According to Uruguayan officials, two Brazilian fishing ships were operating in Uruguayan waters and were intercepted by a patrol boat. Instead of obeying the order to stop, they fled.

A Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that there was no exchange of fire and that there were no injuries during the incident.

Malaysia's Mahathir Seeking Trade Opportunities

BK2806100091 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 28 jun 91

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has called for the dismantling of what he termed the psychological barrier which has all the while separated Latin America and East Asia. The prime minister said the lack of adequate shipping and air links between East Asia and North America has made the distance longer. This stuff is not only the concern of the governments of the two regions, but also to their private sectors. In so far as Malaysia is concerned, it is ready and well equipped to be the conduit to facilitate Brazil's trade with the rapidly growing region in East and Southeast Asia.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, who is on a four-day official visit to Brazil, was speaking at a dinner given in his honor by President Fernando Collor de Mello in Brasilia. The prime minister arrived in Sao Paulo yesterday afternoon at the end of his six-day official visit to Brazil [as heard]. He is scheduled to address a group of local businessmen and industrialists today on investment oppportunities in Malaysia.

Earlier, in Brasilia he visited the Islamic center and presented a U.S.$5,000 donation from the government to the Imam Ahmad Salleh Muhudin.

Chile

Court Requests FPMR Member's Extradition

PY2806002091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The courts have upheld an appeal filed by the Interior Ministry on a ruling which dismissed charges against six alleged members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, FPMR, who were released due to a lack of evidence.

The decision was made by Judge Eduardo del Campo, who had ordered the release of the six people. They had been arrested by Carabineros on suspicion of being involved in the murder of Senator Jaime Guzman. The investigation which resulted in their arrest also helped the police discover a guerrilla school which was operating in a section of the La Pintana shantytown. [passage omitted]

The First Chamber of the Supreme Court has unanimously decided to request the extradition of FPMR member Jorge Martin Martinez, who is currently living in Spain. Martin Martinez was interviewed by this program in Madrid last April along with two other FPMR members, and he denied any connection with Senator Jaime Guzman's murder.

A few days ago, the Third Chamber of the Supreme Court also decided to request the extradition of German Alfaro Rojas and Rafael Pascoal Arias, who escaped from the former Public Jail in January 1990 and are also living in Spain.

Krauss Receives Former Nicaraguan Minister

PY2806010891 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Jose Tomas Borge, former Nicaraguan interior minister under the Daniel Ortega administration, said today that despite ideological differences he has a very good impression of President Patricio Aylwin.

Borge, who was one of the nine leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, met today with Interior Minister Enrique Krauss at La Moneda Palace to exchange views on various issues in national life. Regarding the situation of political prisoners in our country, Borge said that as a foreigner, he could not comment on this issue but that as a Latin American, he advocates pardons.

Borge also said that the democratic process in Nicaragua is going well, despite the fact that some terrorist groups are still operating. He said, however, that peace has been consolidated in Nicaragua. Borge will be in Chile until 26 June.

Colombia

Senate Vice President Rejects Drug Accusations

PA2706224291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1921 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Bogota, 27 Jun (EFE)—Felix Salcedo Baldion, the vice president of the Colombian Senate, has described as "absolutely false" the accusation presented by Venezuelan Deputy Walter Marquez that implicates him and Cucuta Mayor Jairo Slebi Medina in drug trafficking.

The Movement Toward Socialism deputy also said in Venezuela that the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] have received an arrest warrant for the two Colombian politicians from a penal court, because of their ties to drug trafficking in Venezuela.

Salcedo Baldion, a former governor of the border Department of Norte de Santander, said that those who are accusing him "are anti-Colombians who are attacking my honor and that of my country."

"This is not an action of the Venezuelan justice system; rather, it is the work of a deputy neighbor of ours from the State of Tachira (Venezuela), who has become our enemy and who, unfortunately, has allowed himself to become part of the dirty schemes of our Colombian adversaries," Salcedo said.

He added that "the information is absolutely false. I have corrected it a thousand times because every time there is an election in Colombia, they always publish that story in the Venezuelan newspapers so that the Colombian press will pick it up and, therefore, damaging my image."

According to Deputy Walter Marquez, in 1983 the Colombian politicians smuggled a lot of cocaine into Venezuela via Venezuelan citizens Alberto Abello and Faustino Garcia, who were arrested by the PTJ.

Senator Salcedo explained that the accusations began when he traveled to Venezuela as part of the Colombian delegation that was invited to the inaugural ceremony of former Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi (1984-1988). Salcedo announced that he would travel "to Caracas to put an end to this very uncomfortable and very evil campaign against someone who has always led a very open and honest life."

The vice president of the Colombian Senate did not say if he would file a suit against the authors of the accusations, but he did say: "I am really sick of these type of accusations."

Mayor Jairo Sleba Medina, of Cucuta, a city near the Venezuelan border, also blamed the accusations "on the interests of the enemies of Colombian and Venezuelan integration." He announced that he had retained two lawyers to defend his interests before Venezuelan justice.

Surrender of Extraditables Resumes at Envigado

PA2806043391 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The number of extraditables being held at the Envigado maximum security jail has risen to 11. Jorge Eduardo Avendano, alias El Tato, surrendered to Medellin authorities this morning. According to judicial authorities, more surrenders are expected over the next few hours. Here is a report by Carlos Mario Diaz:

[Begin Diaz recording] The surrender of drug traffickers resumed at the Envigado Jail a few minutes ago. Accepting the government decrees on the submission to justice and reduction of sentences, three men, including Jorge Eduardo Avendano Arango, alias El Tato Avendano, entered the maximum security jail. Avendano Arango, who is considered to be a key player in the Medellin Cartel, is one of the trusted aides of Pablo and Roberto Escobar. He surrendered to Marta Luz Hurtado, Antioquia Department criminal investigations director.

The surrender of these three men comes after the entry of drug traffickers into the Envigado Jail was suspended on Friday, 21 June. [end recording]

Government 'Finally' Accepts Envoy's Resignation

PA2706140291 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The Colombian Government today finally accepted the resignation of Ambassador to Switzerland Enrique Parejo Gonzalez, after he insisted and resigned a second time.

In a letter he sent today to Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo, Parejo claims that moral incompatibility prevents him from carrying out his functions honestly as ambassador, because he does not feel that he can support and defend the government's policy on narcotics trafficking.

Parejo Gonzalez insisted that he considers the government's policy wrong and harmful.

Party Leader Wolff Reports on Election Strategy

PA2706201691 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The copresident of the Constituent Assembly, Antonio Navarro Wolff, denied today that his movement, the M-19 [19 April Movement], has offered Nobel prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez the opportunity to head a national list of candidates for the Senate. Navarro Wolff revealed the M-19's electoral strategy for the next elections.

The M-19 took advantage of the forced recess of the Constituent Assembly's plenary meeting, which will begin the second debate on the reforms tomorrow, and decided to start designing its electoral strategy.

In a news conference, Antonio Navarro Wolff reported that his movement plans to form alliances in most of the country's regions to reach the governorships and a good number of seats at the Chamber of Representatives and the Senate.

[Begin recording] [Navarro] We will make a national list of candidates of the AD M-19 [19 April Movement Democratic Alliance], plus the alliances...

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] Alliances?

[Navarro] On that national list there may be new members of the AD M-19. [end recording]

The copresident of the Constituent Assembly proposed the names of his fellow Constituent Assembly members German Toro, Abel Rodriguez, Hector Pineda, and Carlos Sosa for Risaralda, Tolima, Atlantico and Valle gorvernors respectively. He said that with or without alliances, the M-19 will reach six sectional governments and between 20 and 30 seats at the Senate.

He did not reveal the names on the national list of candidates, but he did reject the versions that say that the list would be headed by the Nobel prize winner, Garcia Marquez.

[Begin Navarro recording] I believe that they would be interested in forming part of the Senate. I think so. That is my belief. Why would you ask someone like Garcia Marquez, who is likely to say decline. [end recording]

Peru

Bomb Hurts Guard at Former Shining Path Office

PA2806034991 Lima America Television Network in Spanish 0138 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Technical Police Sergeant Eduardo Calderon Casas was seriously wounded this afternoon by a bomb while he was guarding the building where EL DIARIO DE MARKA [name as shown on screen] used to be located on 3d Street, Paz Avenue, Magdalena del Mar District. According to police sources, the guard was handed a package through one of the windows of the building, which was completely empty since it was seized to stop the circulation of the Shining Path-affiliated newspaper. The place where the workshop and offices were located are completely empty and under Technical Police custody.

After receiving an unidentified object in either an envelope or a small package, the sergeant realized its lethal content and hurled it seconds before it exploded. The explosion and resulting shrapnel, however, seriously wounded him, severing his left hand and part of his right hand. Following the explosion, the sergeant asked for help and rushed into the streets firing into the air, spreading fear among the area residents. When they realized a policeman had been the victim of a terrorist attack, they helped him and brought him to the Police Forces' hospital.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Was the gun far away when you began to help him?

[Unidentified resident] Yes.

[Reporter] Was he alone? Were there any policemen?

[Resident] He was alone. A private car took him away. [end recording]

Army Kills 'Approximately 74' MRTA Members

PA2806035891 Lima America Television Network in Spanish 0203 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Approximately 74 terrorists of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] were killed during a clash with Army troops stationed in Aucayacu Base, Huanuco Department, during a surprise attack early this morning. Also killed in the fighting were Army Corporals Ernest Basauro Rios and Nixon Cardenas Montes, and Private Clair Soria Montes. After the clash, the Army seized light automatic rifles, grenades, and field equipment.

Prime Minister on Drug Trafficker, Forged Papers

PA2806042791 Lima America Television Network in Spanish 0142 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara denied that William Vargas Mori, who was captured at the airport yesterday, 24 June, when he was about to board a plane to Lisbon with a suitcase containing three kgs of cocaine, has worked as an adviser to the office of the prime minister.

[Begin Torres y Torres recording] I thank you for your presence here. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to publicly congratulate the National Police, who were not fooled by a drug trafficker who was carrying counterfeit documents. I want to reiterate the instructions we have clearly given to all the country's authorities in the sense that there are no privileges for anyone who shows up with counterfeit documents to carry out illegal activities in the country. We have to fight drug trafficking head-on. No one should be caught by surprise. The police were not caught by surprise when this counterfeit document was presented by a person who, according to documents that have been turned in, does

not work for the office of the prime minister and has never worked for this office under the current administration. [end recording]

Minister Comments on Sentencing of Policemen

PA2706211591 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1851 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Augusto Antonioli Vasquez, Peruvian minister of justice, has reported that the policemen involved in the murder of three university students in Callao last week will be sentenced to no less than 25 years in prison. The minister said that crimes like this should receive the maximum sentence allowed by law.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Three students were allegedly killed by policemen. What type of punishment should they receive?

[Vasquez] They should get the maximum penalty. I think these policemen must be discharged and then tried.

[Reporter] What specific prison sentence could they receive?

[Vasquez] They could be sentenced to a maximum of 25 years in prison. [end recording]

Uruguay

Government Protests Brazilian Ships Incident

PY2706125691 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The Uruguayan Government has formally lodged a diplomatic note with Brazilian authorities over a maritime incident that took place in the early morning hours of 26 June when the frigate Uruguay surprised two Brazilian fishing ships operating in Uruguayan territorial waters. The Brazilian fishing ships refused boarding, despite the fact that their hulls were hit by several shots.

At 1930 yesterday, Ambassador Juan Enrique Fischer, the foreign policy director of the Foreign Ministry, delivered to Jorge Ribeiro, the Brazilian ambassador to our country, an official note from the Uruguayan Government reporting this incident. [passage omitted]

According to a Foreign Ministry source, the note delivered to the Brazilian ambassador used terms similar to those in the Uruguayan Navy's official report.

New Measures Adopted To Stop Money Laundering

PY2706182891 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 18 Jun 91 p 9

[Text] The Uruguayan Central Bank [BCU] has ordered all enterprises that belong to the Exchange Market to identify the people who exchange easily convertible notes worth more than $10,000. This measure is part of a BCU program to reinforce legal measures currently in force to fight laundering of ill-gotten capital.

According to this new measure, those who exchange money for more than $10,000 (or its equivalent in other currencies)—be it through checks, tranfers, bank deposits, shares, precious metals, or other easily convertible assets—must identify themselves.

This measure comes on top of those currently in force demanding the identification of individuals or enterprises that have bank accounts.

The BCU decision was announced to all enterprises that belong to the Exchange Market, including banks, financial institutions, foreign financial organizations, financial cooperatives, and exchange offices.

Venezuela

Colombian Officials Accused of Drug Trafficking

PA2706193291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1656 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Caracas, 27 Jun (EFE)—Venezuelan deputy Walter Marquez announced today that a Caracas court has ordered the arrest of Felix Salcedo Baldion, vice president of the Colombian Congress, and Jairo Slebi Medina, mayor of Cucuta, Colombia, on charges of alleged drug trafficking.

Marquez, a legislator who belongs to the Movement Toward Socialism, said that a warrant for the arrest of the two Colombian politicians was issued to the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) on 20 June. The two were described as "rebels summoned to appear" before the 6th Criminal Court in Caracas.

According to Marquez, the Colombian politicians introduced a shipment of cocaine into Venezuela in 1983 by means of Colombian citizens Alberto Abello and Faustino Garcia, who were arrested by the PTJ.

Abello and Garcia were released by the decision of Judge Antonio Guevara Sifontes, who was later dismissed from his post by the legal council, which described his decision as "censurable conduct that compromised the dignity of his post."

Marquez, whose party is the third most important political force in Venezuela, said that the attorney general's office has asked criminal judge David Perez Perera to reopen the case.

Judge Perez Perera has ordered that a citation be issued against the Colombian politicians for the illegal possession of narcotics and that they be summoned to answer to Venezuelan authorities for the crimes with which they are charged.

Marquez said that the investigations ordered by the judge seek to establish the existence of an alleged link between Venezuelan drug traffickers and the so-called "Cucuta cartel," of which "Salcedo Baldion and Slebi Medina are reportedly prominent members."